STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 89

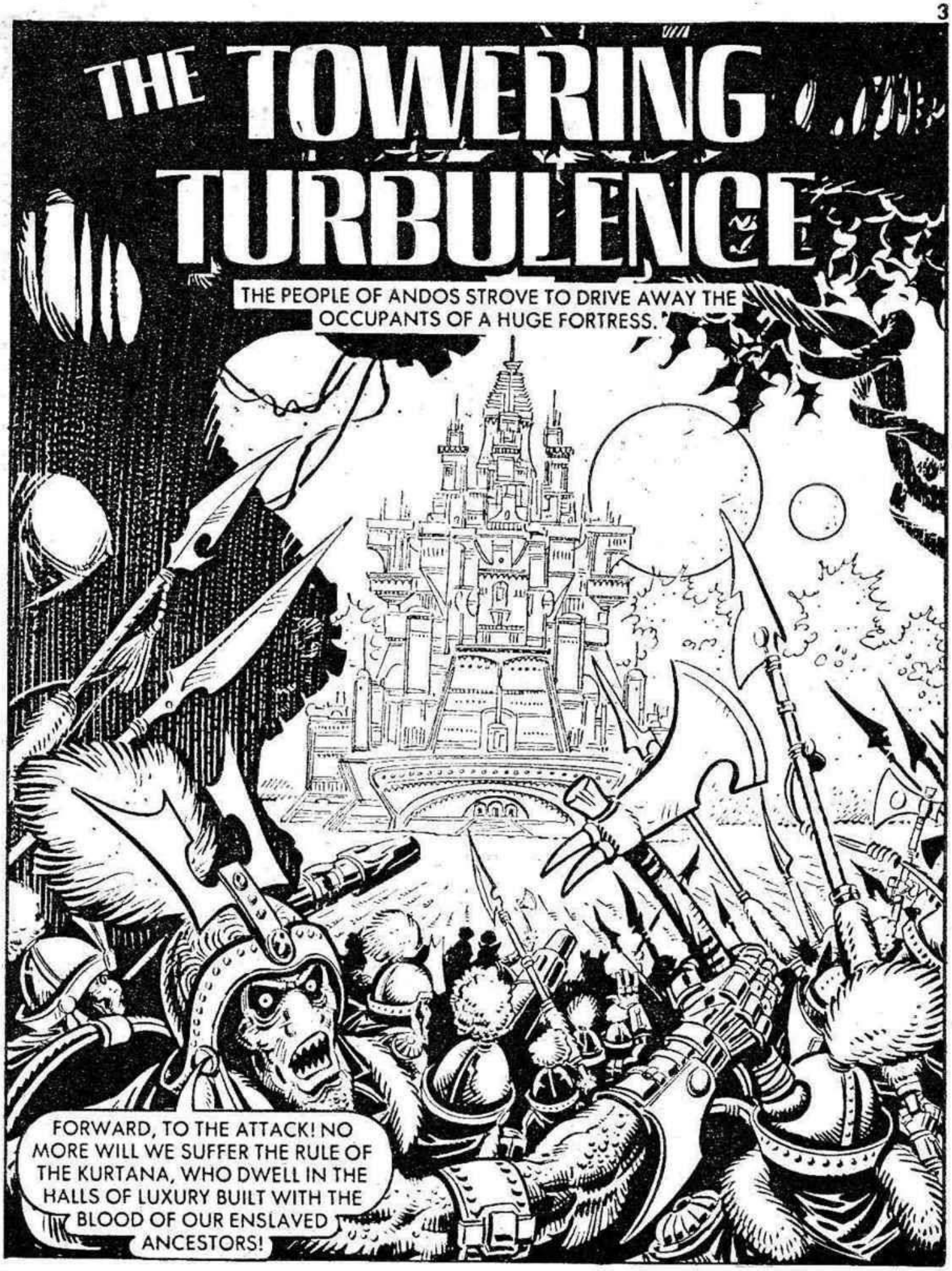
18p

The TOWERING TURBULENCE

STARBLAZER

THE INVENTION OF THE RADIATION FREE WARP DRIVE MADE THE FAR REACHES OF THE GALAXY AS ACCESSIBLE AS NEIGHBOURING WORLDS IN A STAR SYSTEM. EVERY SHIP'S GUIDANCE COMPUTER HAD ACCESS TO THE DATA STORAGE UNIT KNOWN AS THE GALACTIC GAZETEER, WHERE THE CO-ORDINATES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL KNOWN WORLDS WERE HOUSED.

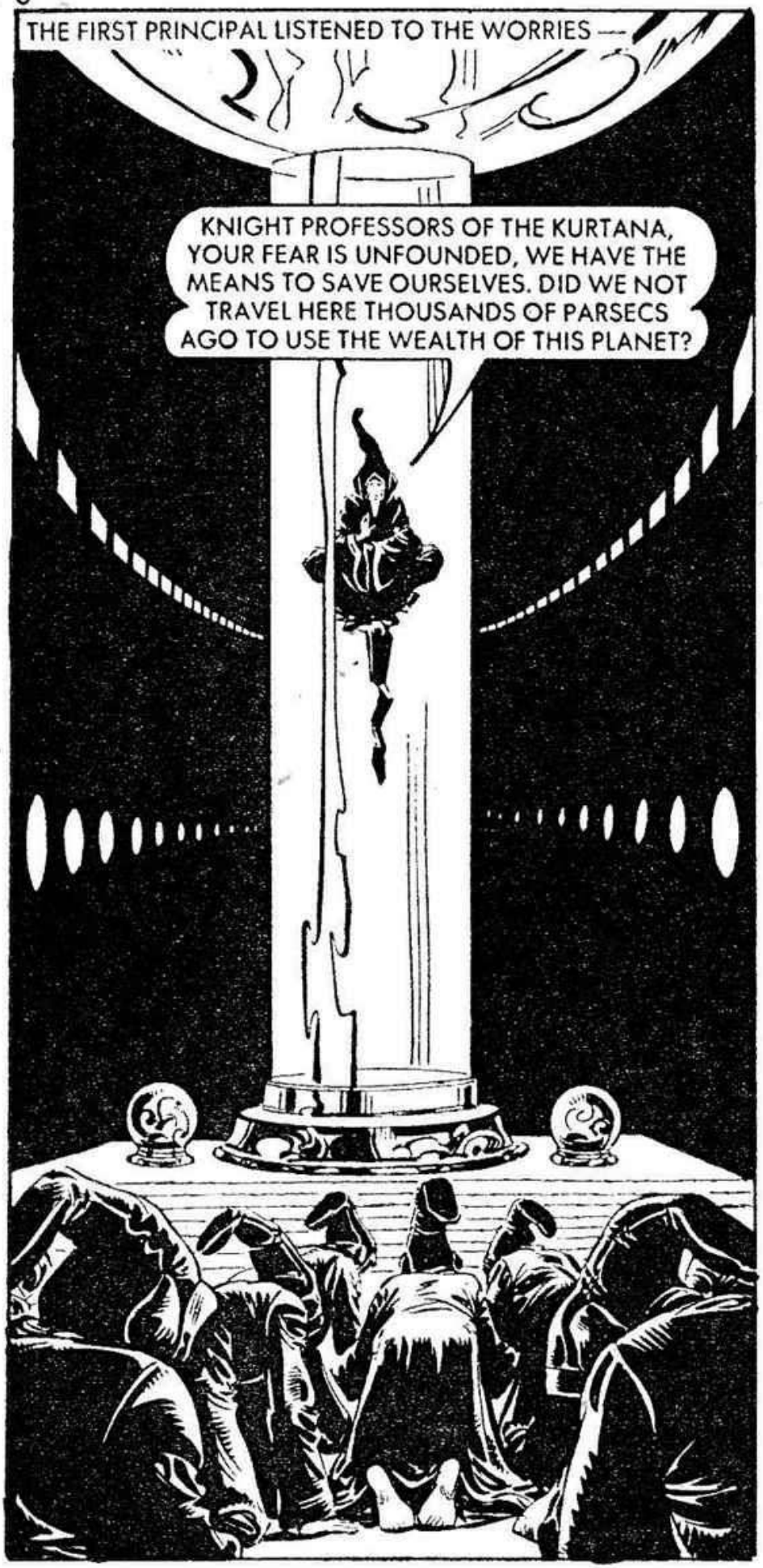
THE VASTNESS OF SPACE, HOWEVER, HELD SECRETS NOT RECORDED IN THE GAZETEER. FAR OUT IN THE GALACTIC WASTES ON THE PLANET OF ANDOS, A PRIMITIVE RACE WERE IN REBELLION . . .

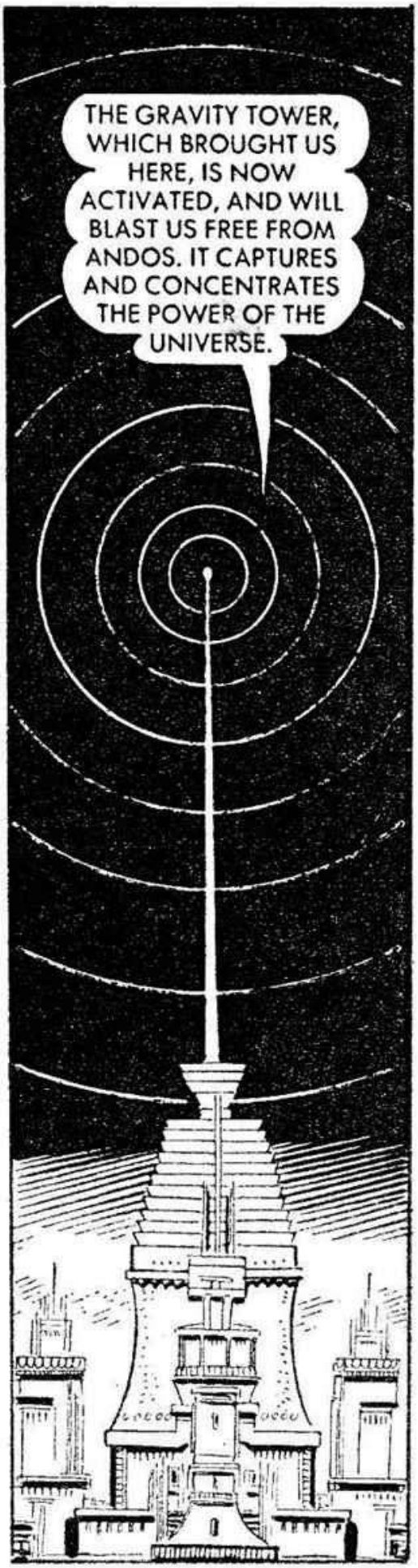

THE TOWERING TURBULENCE
THE PEOPLE OF ANDOS STROVE TO DRIVE AWAY THE OCCUPANTS OF A HUGE FORTRESS.
FORWARD, TO THE ATTACK! NO MORE WILL WE SUFFER THE RULE OF THE KURTANA, WHO DWELL IN THE HALLS OF LUXURY BUILT WITH THE BLOOD OF OUR ENSLAVED ANCESTORS!

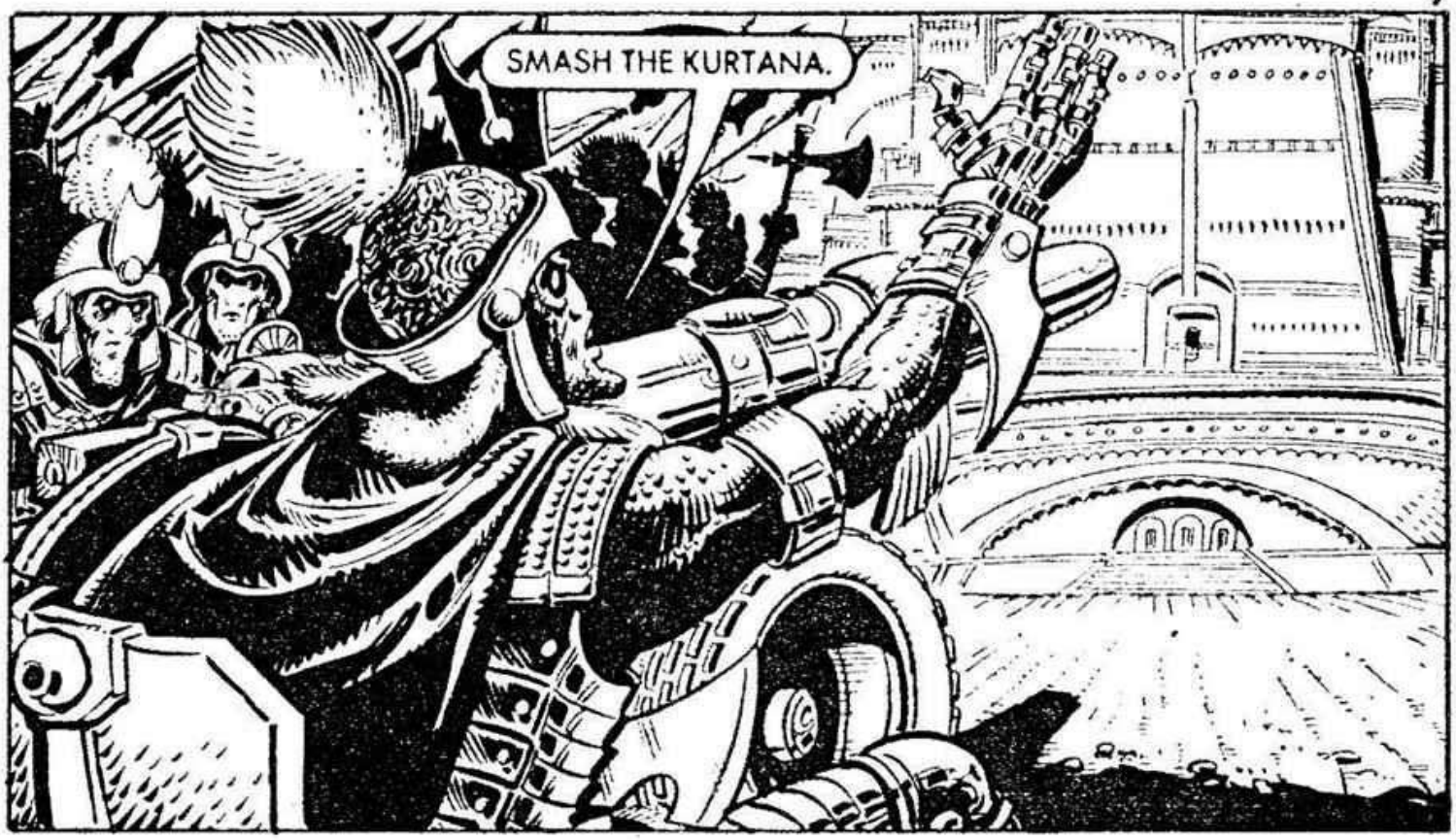
INSIDE THE HALLS OF KURTANA —
THE ENEMY IS AT THE GATE, BROTHER!
TOO LONG SPENT IN THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE HAS LEFT US HELPLESS AGAINST VIOLENCE.
WE WILL SEEK AN AUDIENCE WITH THE FIRST PRINCIPAL.

OUR VAULTS ARE FULL OF WEAPONRY WHICH WE NO LONGER HAVE THE SKILLS TO USE. THE BARBARIANS MUST NOT CAPTURE THEM.

THE ATTACKERS FIRED THEIR PRIMITIVE CANNON —
EXPLOSIONS! WE MUST HURRY!

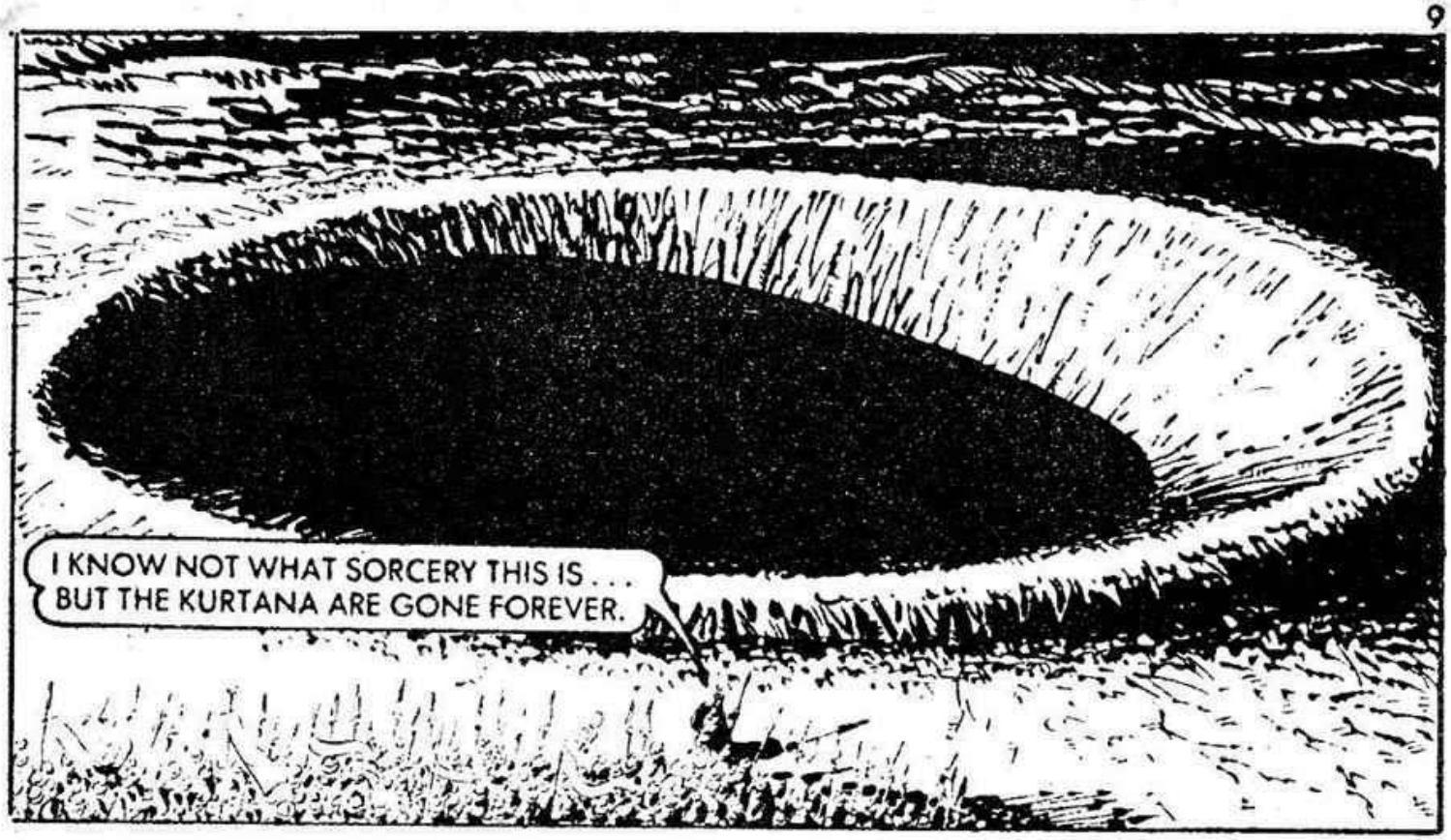

THE FIRST PRINCIPAL LISTENED TO THE WORRIES —
KNIGHT PROFESSORS OF THE KURTANA, YOUR FEAR IS UNFOUNDED, WE HAVE THE MEANS TO SAVE OURSELVES. DID WE NOT TRAVEL HERE THOUSANDS OF PARSECS AGO TO USE THE WEALTH OF THIS PLANET?


THE GRAVITY TOWER, WHICH BROUGHT US HERE, IS NOW ACTIVATED, AND WILL BLAST US FREE FROM ANDOS. IT CAPTURES AND CONCENTRATES THE POWER OF THE UNIVERSE.


SMASH THE KURTANA.

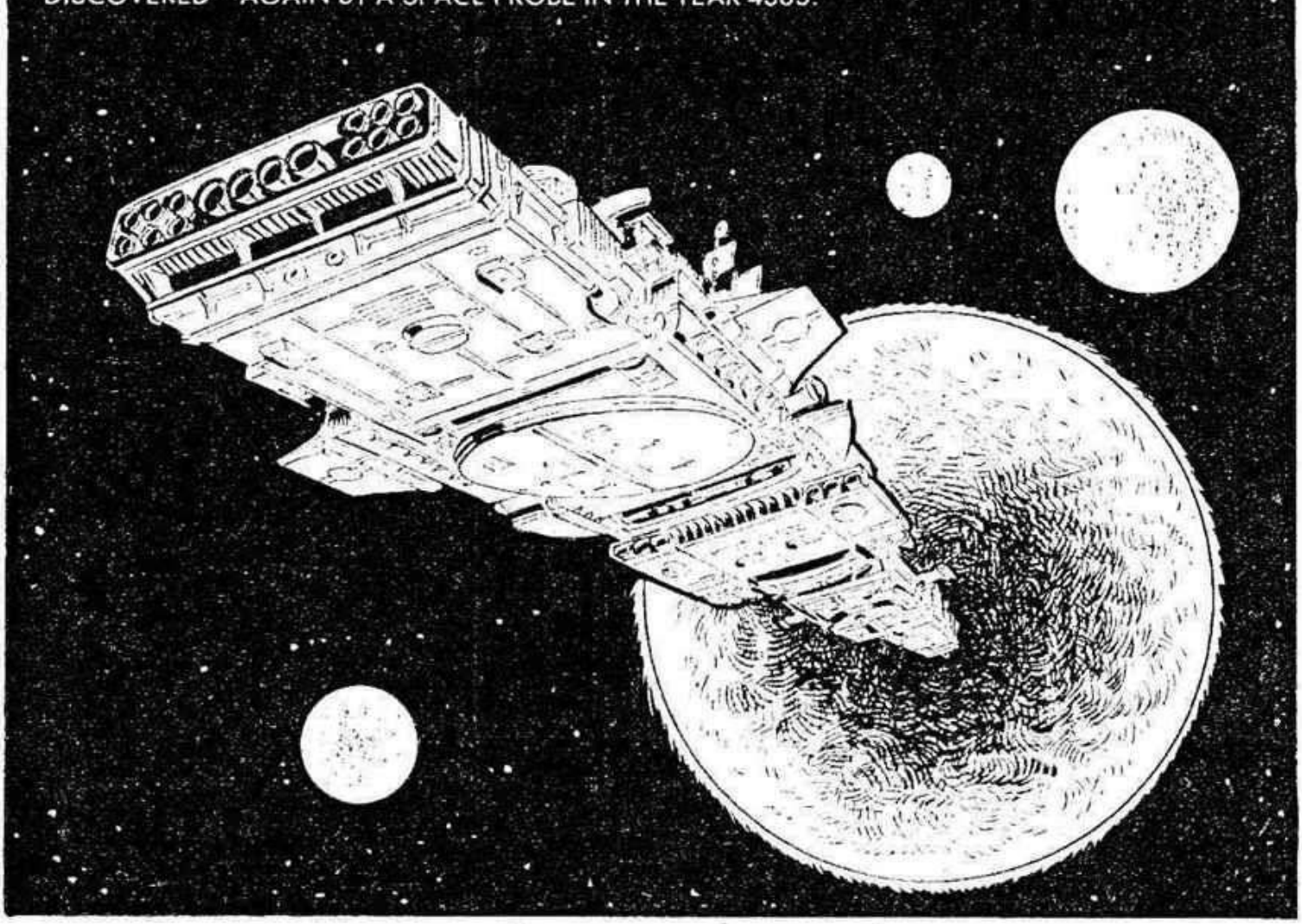
THE TOWER BEGAN TO SHIMMER —
WHAT WITCHCRAFT IS THIS?

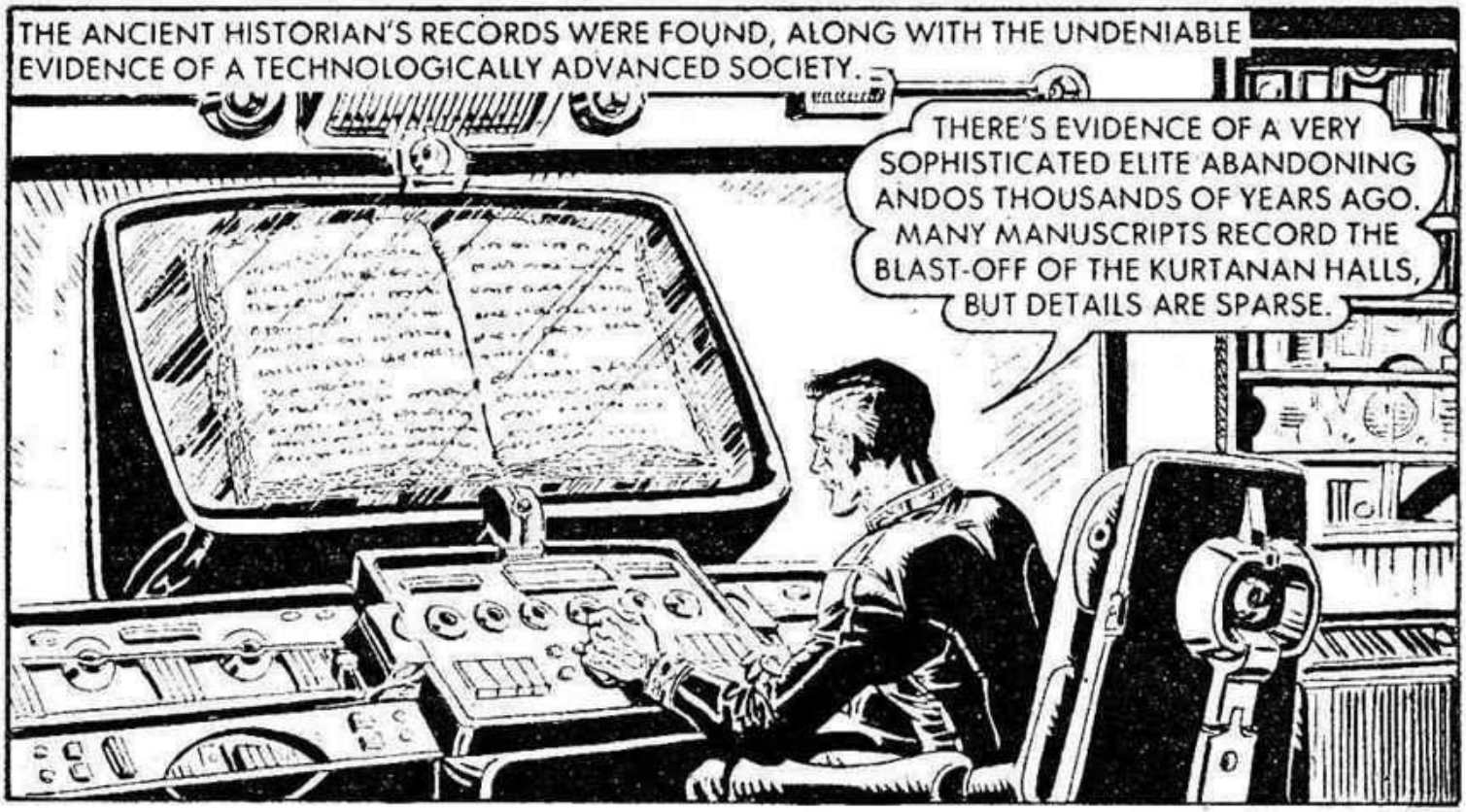
WITH AN AWESOME SOUND THE HALLS OF THE KURTANA BROKE FREE FROM THE GRAVITATIONAL HOLD OF THE PLANET AND HEADED FOR A NEW HOME IN THE STARS.

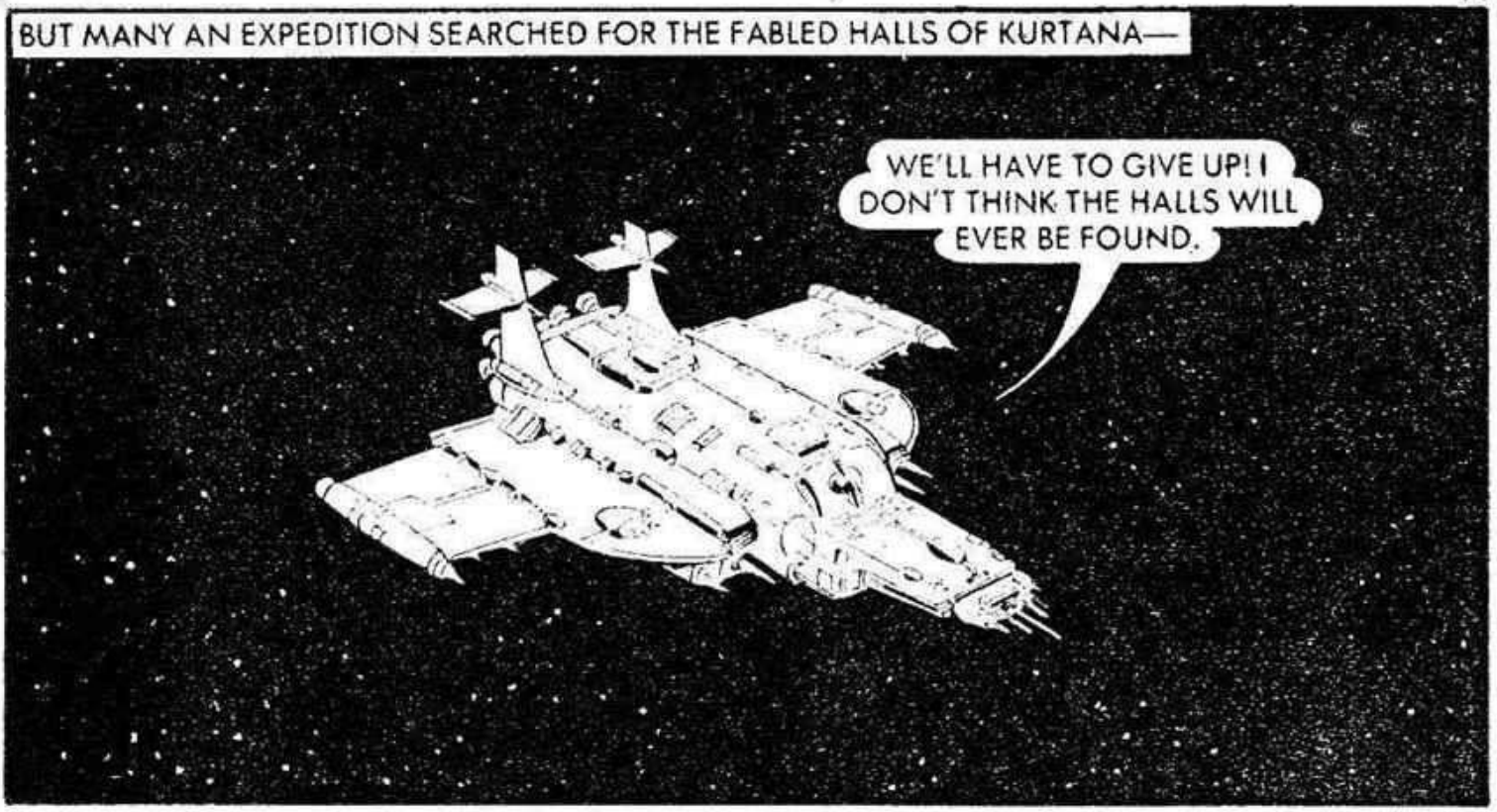

I KNOW NOT WHAT SORCERY THIS IS . . . BUT THE KURTANA ARE GONE FOREVER.

OVER THE CENTURIES, THE TALE OF THE KURTANA'S DEPARTURE BECAME CONFUSED AND ELABORATED —
AS COLLECTOR OF HISTORY ON ANDOS I MUST WRITE THE STORIES — NO MATTER HOW UNLIKELY.
AND SO THE STORY OF THE KURTANA AND THE TOWERING TURBULENCE WAS BORN —

AS THE UNIVERSE EXPANDED AND CONTRACTED THE PLANET ANDOS DIED AND WAS " DISCOVERED " AGAIN BY A SPACE PROBE IN THE YEAR 4383.

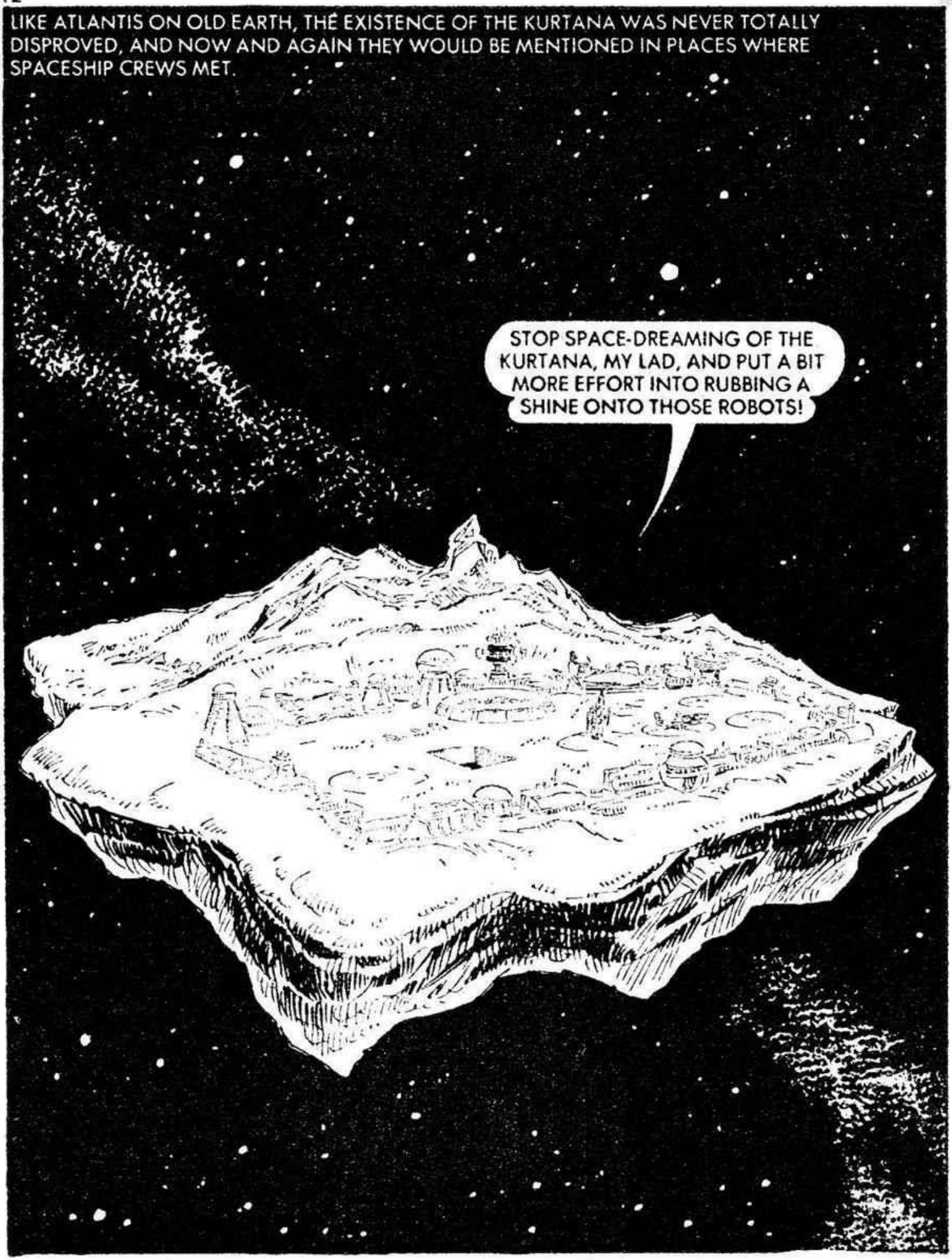





BUT MANY AN EXPEDITION SEARCHED FOR THE FABLED HALLS OF KURTANA—
WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP! I DON'T THINK THE HALLS WILL EVER BE FOUND.

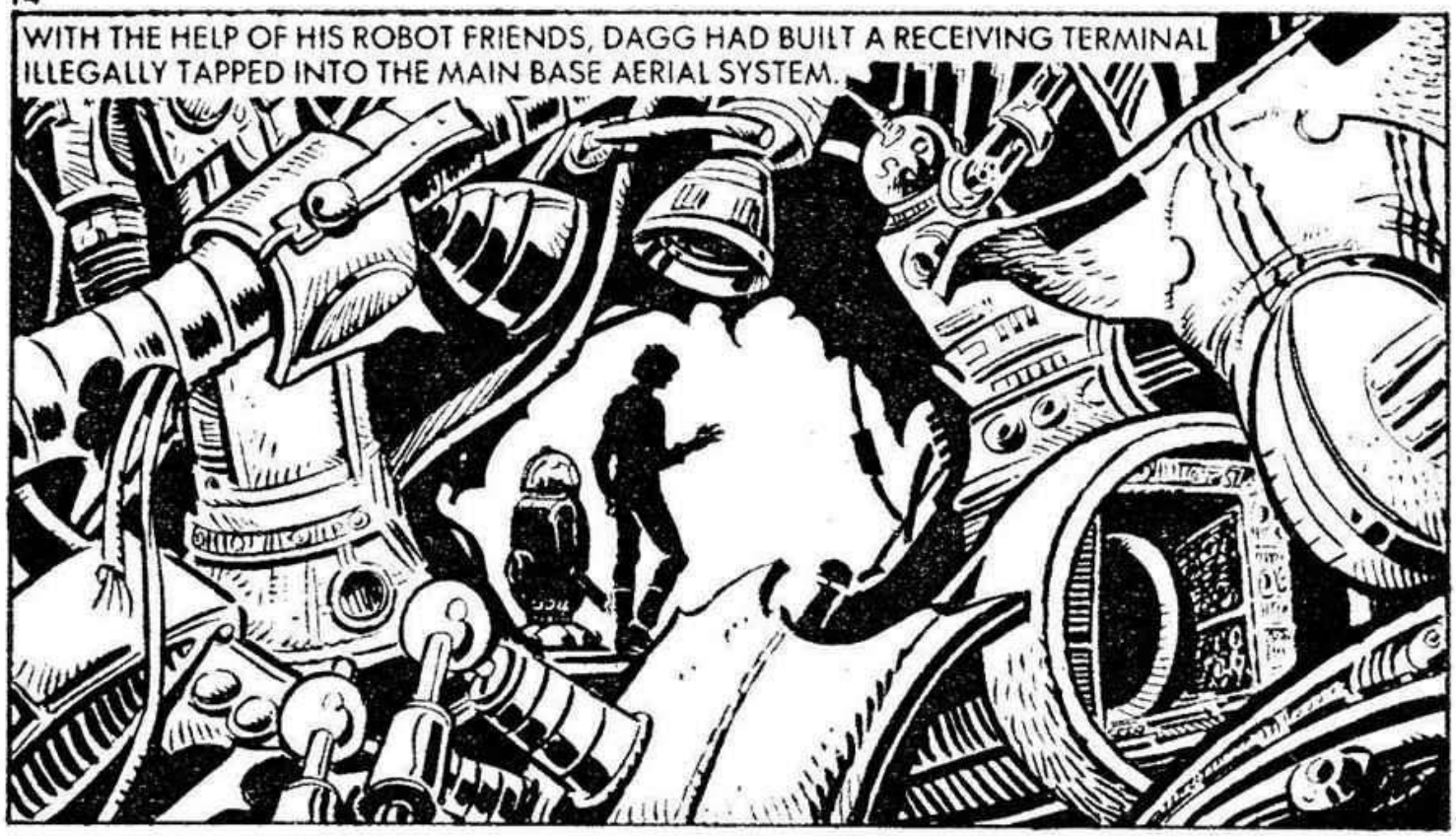
BUT ADVENTURERS KEPT LOOKING —
WE'RE CONFIDENT. NEW TECHNIQUES IN THE DE-CODING OF AN ANCIENT STAR MAP HAVE GIVEN US VITAL CLUES.

MOST EXPEDITIONS RETURNED TO ADMIT FAILURE, SOME EXPEDITIONS NEVER RETURNED AT ALL . . .


LIKE ATLANTIS ON OLD EARTH, THE EXISTENCE OF THE KURTANA WAS NEVER TOTALLY DISPROVED, AND NOW AND AGAIN THEY WOULD BE MENTIONED IN PLACES WHERE SPACESHIP CREWS MET.
STOP SPACE-DREAMING OF THE KURTANA, MY LAD, AND PUT A BIT MORE EFFORT INTO RUBBING A SHINE ONTO THOSE ROBOTS!

YOU'LL BE WORKING FOR ME A LONG WHILE YET, MASTER DAGG KNOLL, TO CLEAR YOUR BROTHER'S DEBTS!

HE'LL BE OFF TO SULK IN HIS OFFICE NOW, CHIP, SO I'VE TIME TO CHECK OUT MY TERMINAL.
HE'LL CATCH YOU ONE DAY, DAGG.


WITH THE HELP OF HIS ROBOT FRIENDS, DAGG HAD BUILT A RECEIVING TERMINAL ILLEGALLY TAPPED INTO THE MAIN BASE AERIAL SYSTEM.

CHIP! IT'S COME THROUGH AT LAST! A MESSAGE ON MY BROTHER'S TRANSMIT WAVEBAND!

DAGG'S BROTHER HAD BEEN MISSING FOR MANY YEARS, AFTER SETTING OUT IN SEARCH OF THE LEGENDARY HALLS OF THE KURTANA.
IT'S FROM BRENT HIMSELF. HE'S GIVEN SPACIAL CO-ORDINATES.

THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON I KNOW MIGHT HELP ME — THAT'S ONE-EYED ALTAIR.

ALTAIR, ONCE GALACTIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE, WAS NOW PARDONED AND RETIRED.
MY OLD CAMPAIGNING INSTINCTS TELL ME THAT THIS IS A LOAD OF TROUBLE JUST ARRIVING.

DAGG TOLD HIS OLD FRIEND THE WHOLE STORY —
THERE'S NOTHING I KNOW OF IN THAT SECTOR OF SPACE, SO IT'S POSSIBLE THAT IT COULD BE A REAL FIND. BUT THIS MESSAGE WAS SENT IN CODE. WE COULD HAVE COMPETITION.

LOOK OUT! A THERMITE GRENADE!
SOMEONE'S OUT TO WRECK MY SPACESHIP!
THEY'LL MAKE A SECOND ATTACK ONLY OVER MY DEAD BODY.

THE UNKNOWN ATTACKERS VANISHED IN THE FACE OF ALTAIR'S ACCURATE BLAST-FIRE.
IT LOOKS A MESS, BUT THEY DIDN'T HIT ANYTHING VITAL, SHE'LL BE EASILY PATCHED UP.

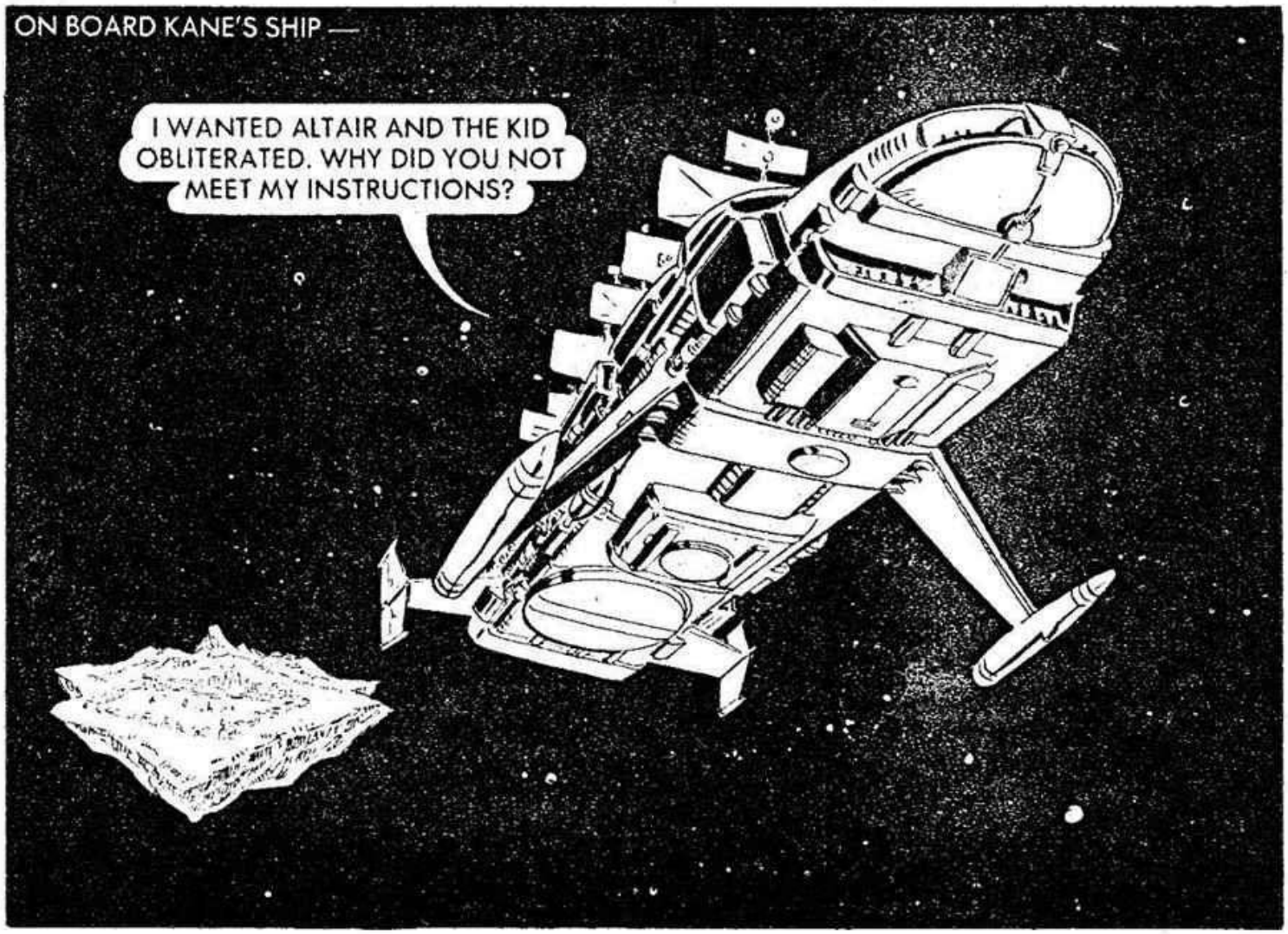
IS IT A COINCIDENCE THE ATTACK CAME JUST AS I HEARD ABOUT THE KURTANA? OR IS SOMEBODY ONE JUMP AHEAD ALREADY?

THE SECTION PATROLMAN ARRIVED TO INVESTIGATE THE EXPLOSION.
TYPES LIKE YOU, ALTAIR, ATTRACT TROUBLE. I'M GROUNDING YOU UNTIL WE CAN FULLY INVESTIGATE THIS INCIDENT.

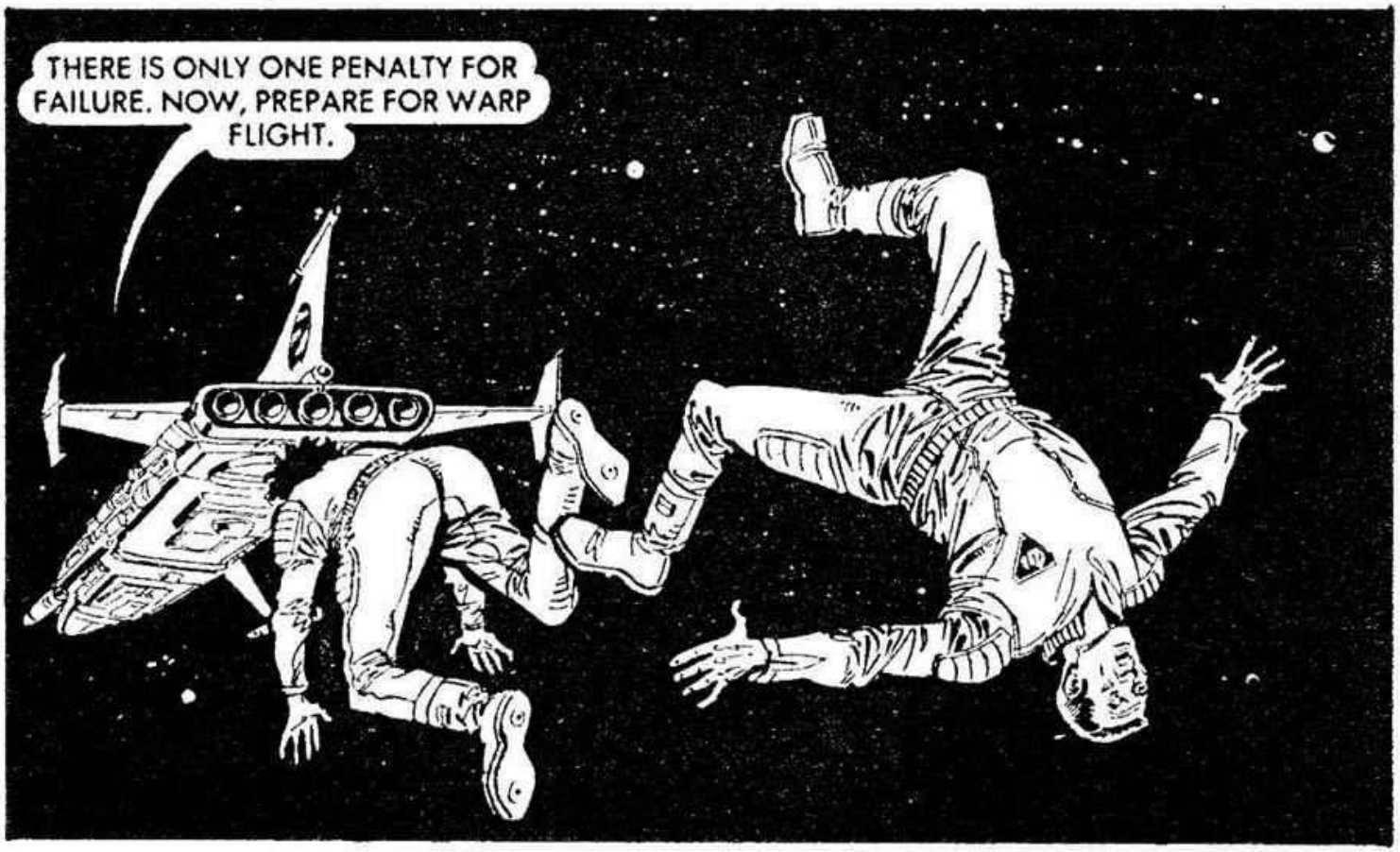
THAT'S AN END TO OUR HOPES OF FINDING MY BROTHER.
DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT! NO COSMIC COP EVER TOLD ME WHAT NOT TO DO.

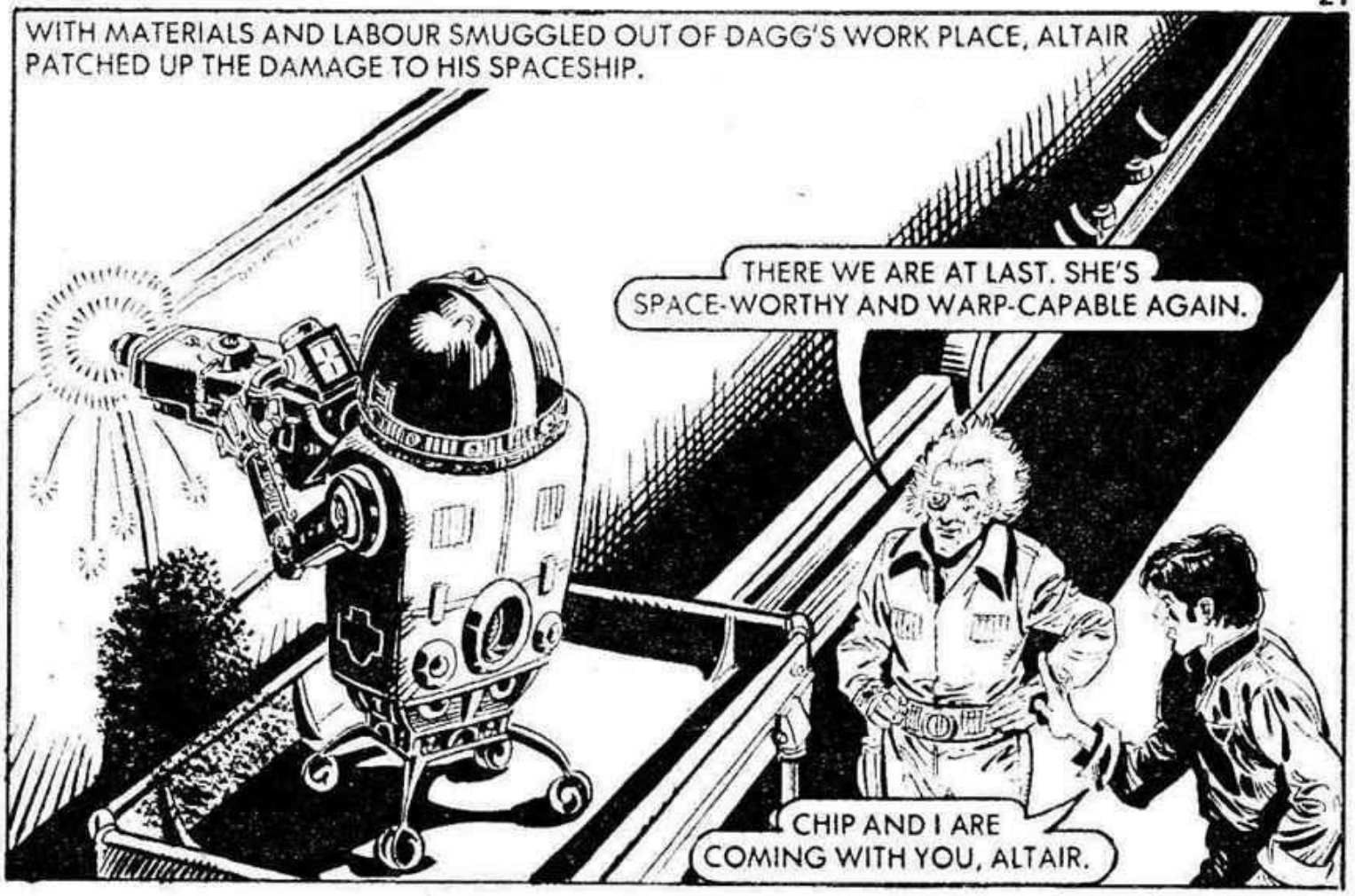
THE SOONER WE JET OFF THE BETTER, BECAUSE THERE'S THE THIRD COINCIDENCE SINCE I WOKE UP THIS MORNING. KANE'S SPACE YACHT LEAVING PORT!

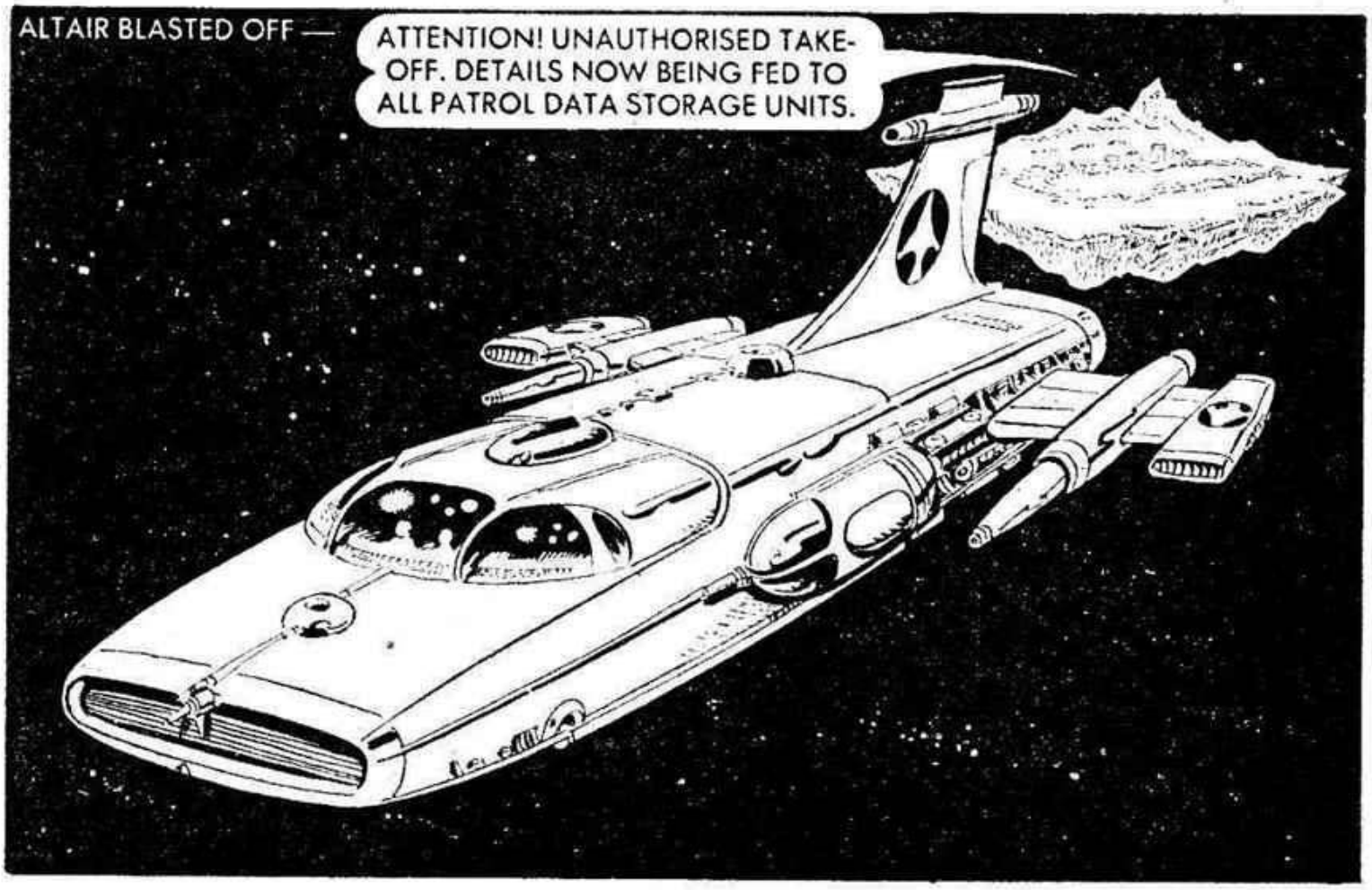
WHO'S KANE?
NOVA KANE IS A MEGA-DEALER IN MINING EQUIPMENT WHO OPERATES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE LAW. HE NEVER LEAVES PORT . . . SO WHY DOES HE SUDDENLY ALTER THE HABITS OF A LIFETIME?


ON BOARD KANE'S SHIP —
I WANTED ALTAIR AND THE KID OBLITERATED. WHY DID YOU NOT MEET MY INSTRUCTIONS?

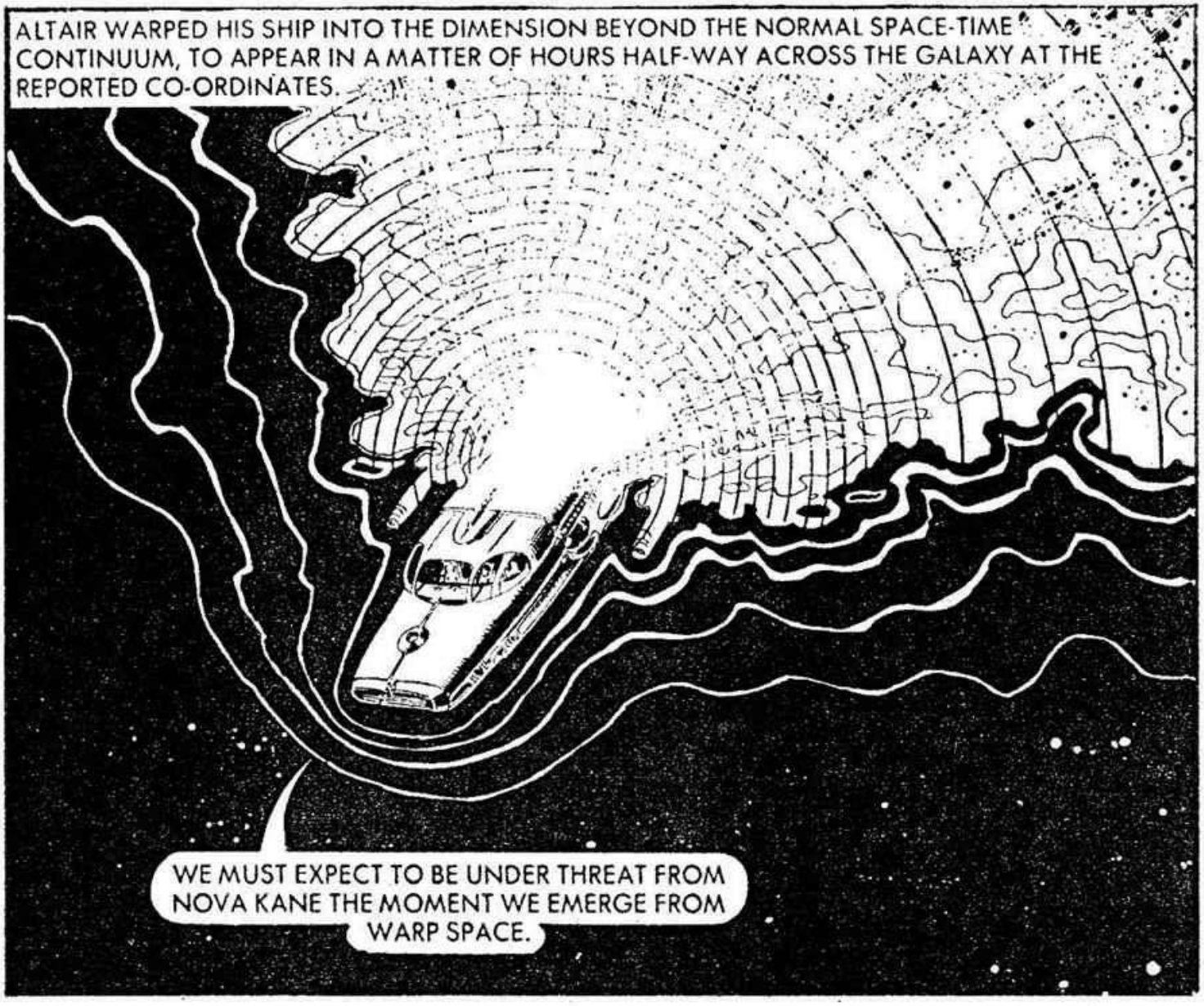
WE HIT HIS SHIP . . .
. . . AND B-BRIBED THE PATROLMAN. HE'LL NEVER CATCH US NOW.


THERE IS ONLY ONE PENALTY FOR FAILURE. NOW, PREPARE FOR WARP FLIGHT.

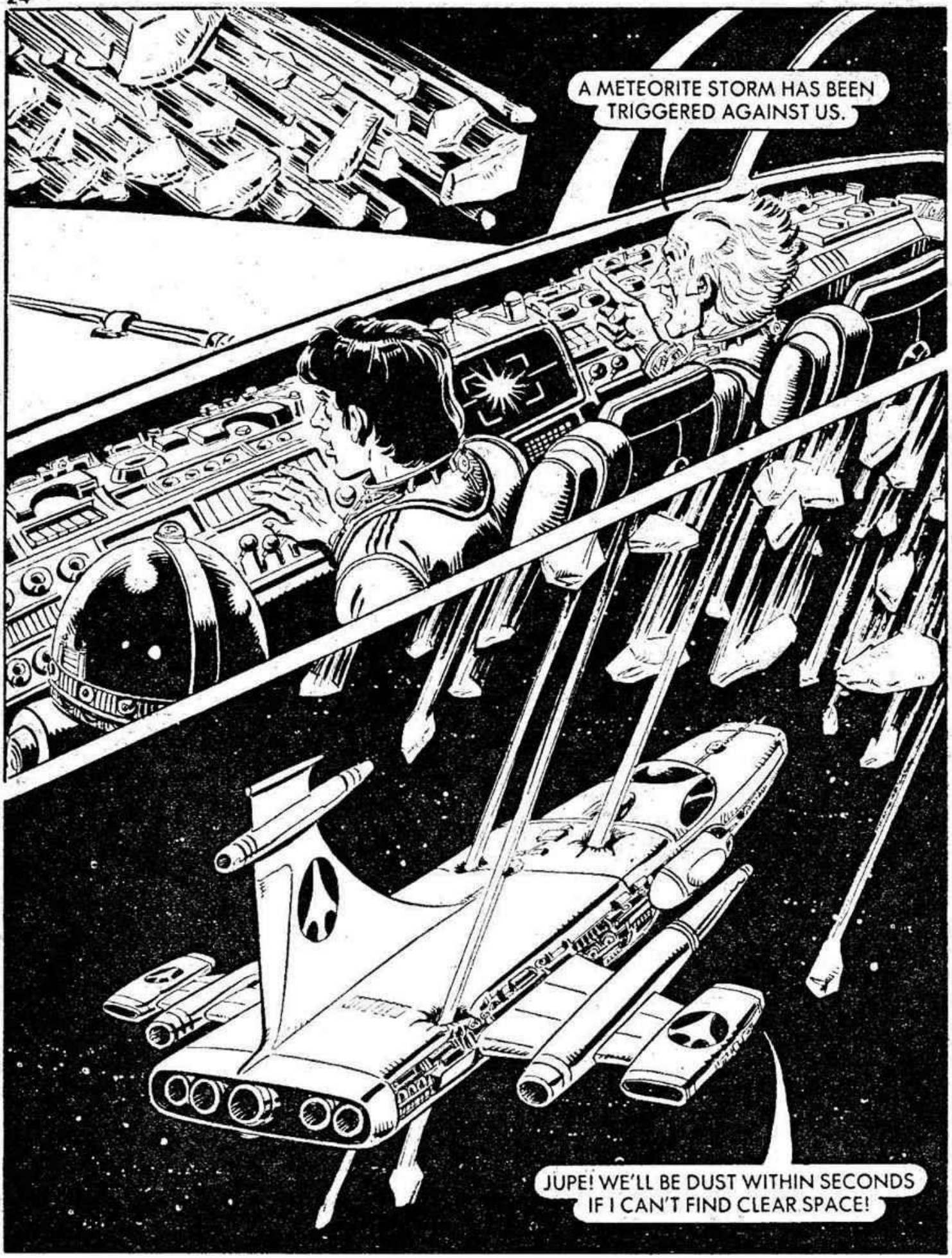

WITH MATERIALS AND LABOUR SMUGGLED OUT OF DAGG'S WORK PLACE, ALTAIR PATCHED UP THE DAMAGE TO HIS SPACESHIP.
THERE WE ARE AT LAST. SHE'S SPACE-WORTHY AND WARP-CAPABLE AGAIN.
CHIP AND I ARE COMING WITH YOU, ALTAIR.


ALTAIR BLASTED OFF —
ATTENTION! UNAUTHORISED TAKE-OFF. DETAILS NOW BEING FED TO ALL PATROL DATA STORAGE UNITS.

WE'LL BE OUT OF REACH IN WARP SPACE BEFORE ANY SHIP EVEN THINKS ABOUT RESPONDING TO THE ARREST INSTRUCTION.


ALTAIR WARPED HIS SHIP INTO THE DIMENSION BEYOND THE NORMAL SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM, TO APPEAR IN A MATTER OF HOURS HALF-WAY ACROSS THE GALAXY AT THE REPORTED CO-ORDINATES.
WE MUST EXPECT TO BE UNDER THREAT FROM NOVA KANE THE MOMENT WE EMERGE FROM WARP SPACE.

JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THAT.
IT'S THE HALLS OF KURTANA.

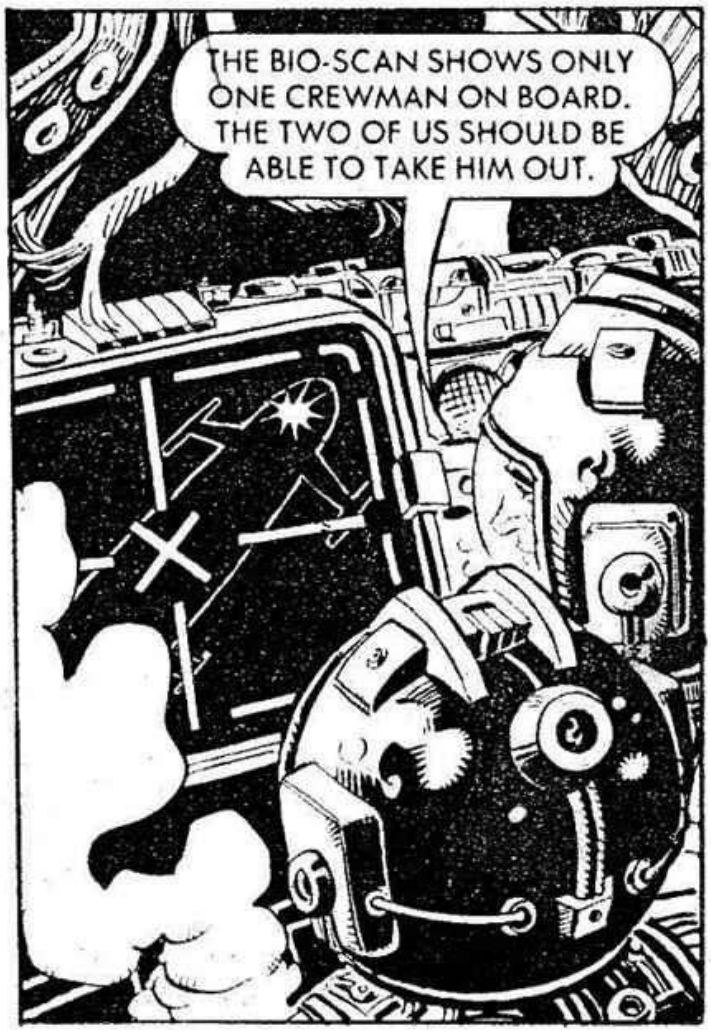

A METEORITE STORM HAS BEEN TRIGGERED AGAINST US.
JUPE! WE'LL BE DUST WITHIN SECONDS IF I CAN'T FIND CLEAR SPACE!

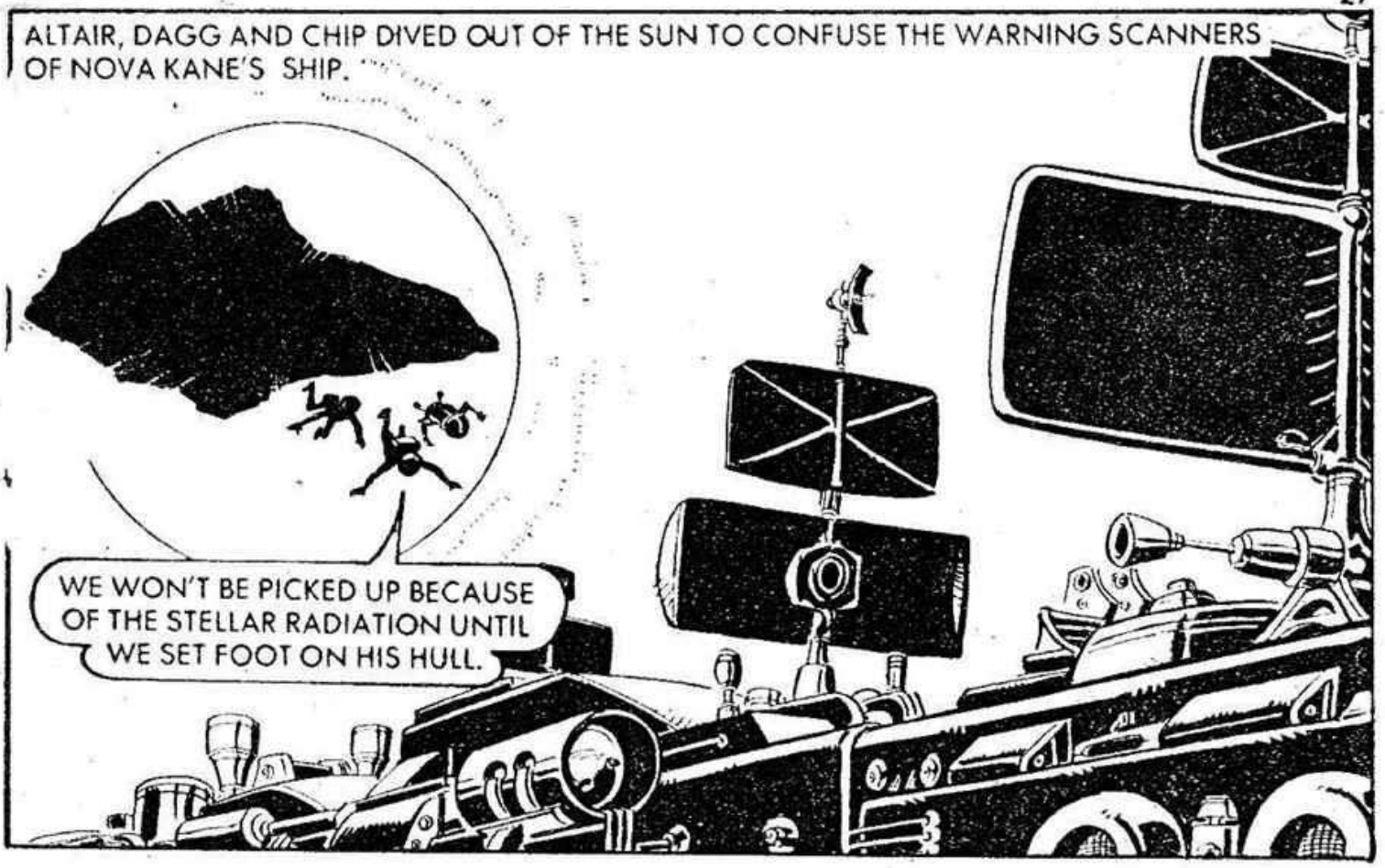
THEY SUITED UP TO PROTECT THESMELVES AGAINST THE INTENSE COLD.
I'M GOING FOR A LANDING ON ONE OF THE LARGER ROCKS. IT'LL GIVE US SOME SHELTER.

ALTAIR AND DAGG RODE OUT THE STORM IN THE SHELTER OF AN ASTEROID.
WE'RE BEING CARRIED AWAY FROM THE KURTANA, AND THE STORM GETS WEAKER.

WE MIGHT BE CLEAR OF THE STORM DAGG, BUT THIS CRAFT WILL NEVER BE SPACE-WORTHY AGAIN. WE'RE STRANDED!

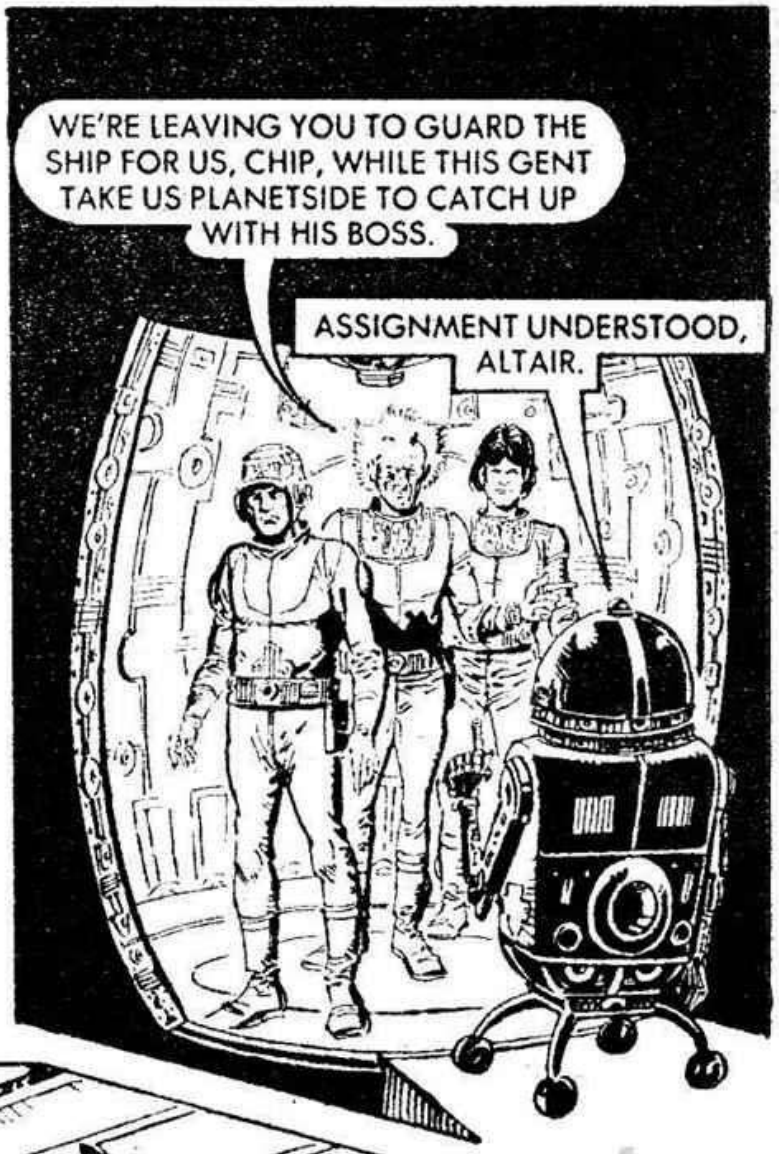
THE SCANNERS HAVE LOCATED NOVA KANE'S SHIP IN A PARKING ORBIT, ALTAIR. HE MUST BE DOWN ON THAT PLANETOID.
I'VE STILL GOT ENOUGH POWER TO TAKE OUR ASTEROID IN CLOSER.


THE BIO-SCAN SHOWS ONLY ONE CREWMAN ON BOARD. THE TWO OF US SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE HIM OUT.


ALTAIR, DAGG AND CHIP DIVED OUT OF THE SUN TO CONFUSE THE WARNING SCANNERS OF NOVA KANE'S SHIP.
WE WON'T BE PICKED UP BECAUSE OF THE STELLAR RADIATION UNTIL WE SET FOOT ON HIS HULL.

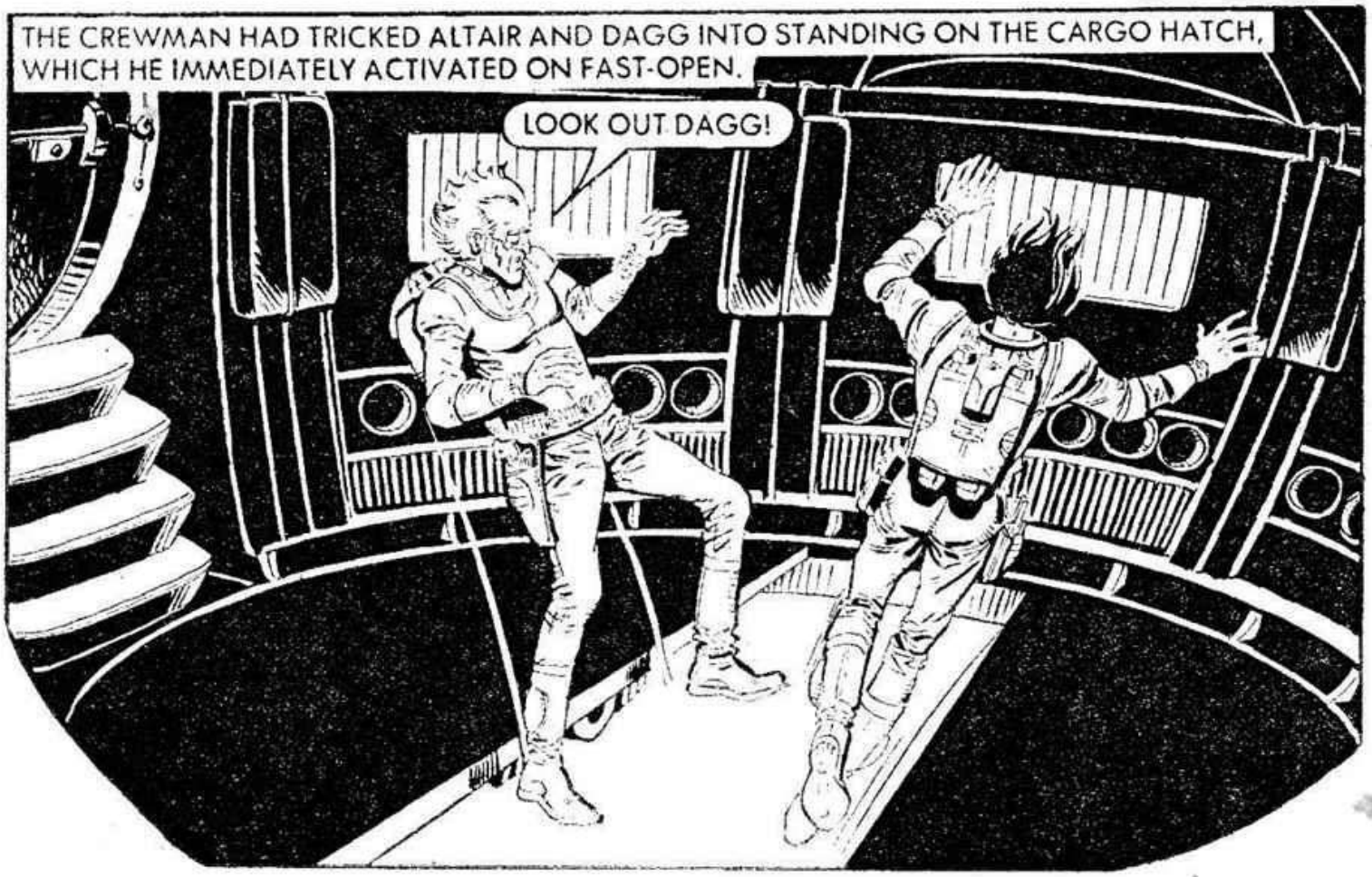
ALTAIR ACHIEVED HIS EXPECTED SURPRISE.
NOW WHAT'S THAT LIGHT GONE ON THE BLINK ABOUT? SOMETHING ALWAYS GOES WRONG WHEN I'VE GOT MY FEET UP!

THE CREWMAN WAS RIGHT — THINGS HAD GONE TERRIBLY WRONG FOR HIM.
FREEZE! OR MY CRYO-BLASTER WILL DO IT FOR YOU!
ALTAIR!
TOVA

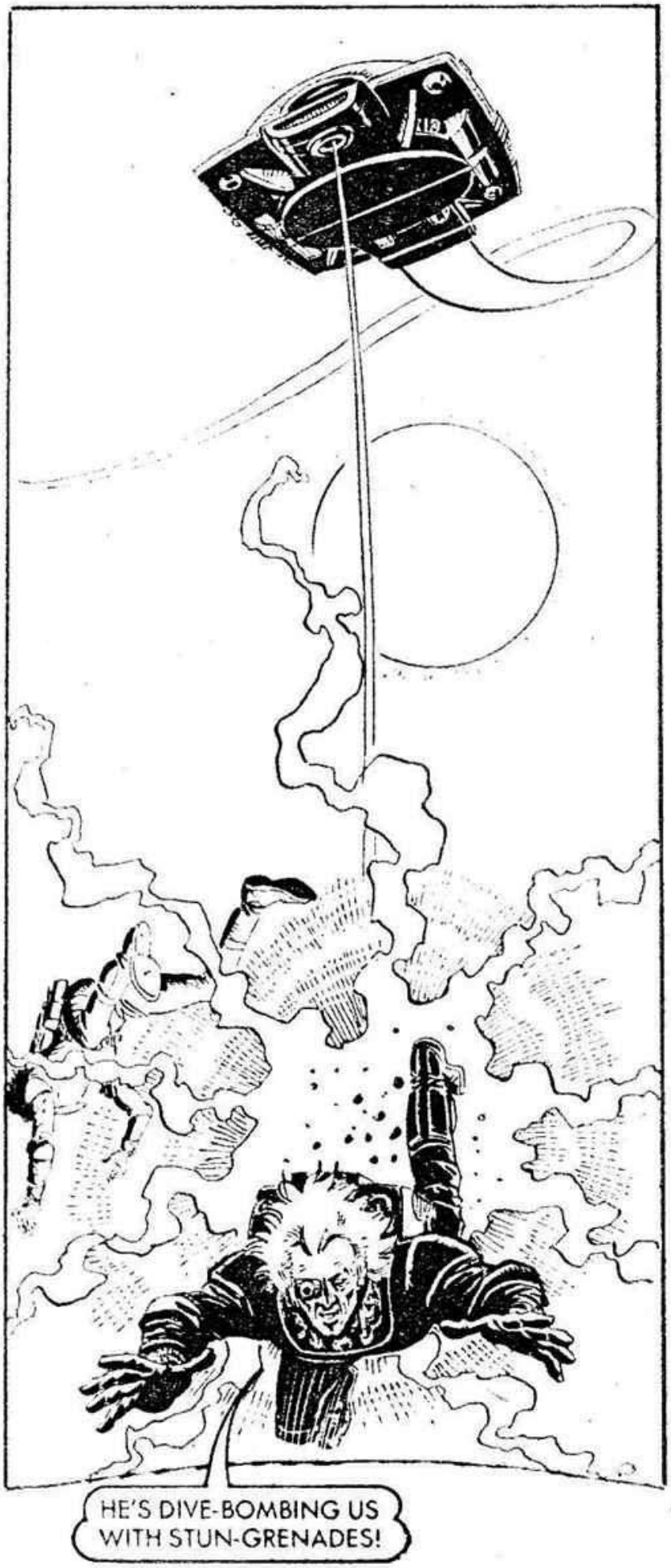

WE'RE LEAVING YOU TO GUARD THE SHIP FOR US, CHIP, WHILE THIS GENT TAKE US PLANETSIDE TO CATCH UP WITH HIS BOSS.
ASSIGNMENT UNDERSTOOD, ALTAIR.

WE'LL BEAT KANE TO KURTANA YET.
AND FIND MY BROTHER BRENT, I HOPE.

THE SHUTTLE FLEW OVER THE REMNANT OF SOME LONG FORGOTTEN WAR —
THERE'S SOMETHING DOWN THERE. TAKE US IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK.
YOU'LL FIND A MAGNIFICATION-SCAN IN THE CARGO BAY, ALTAIR.

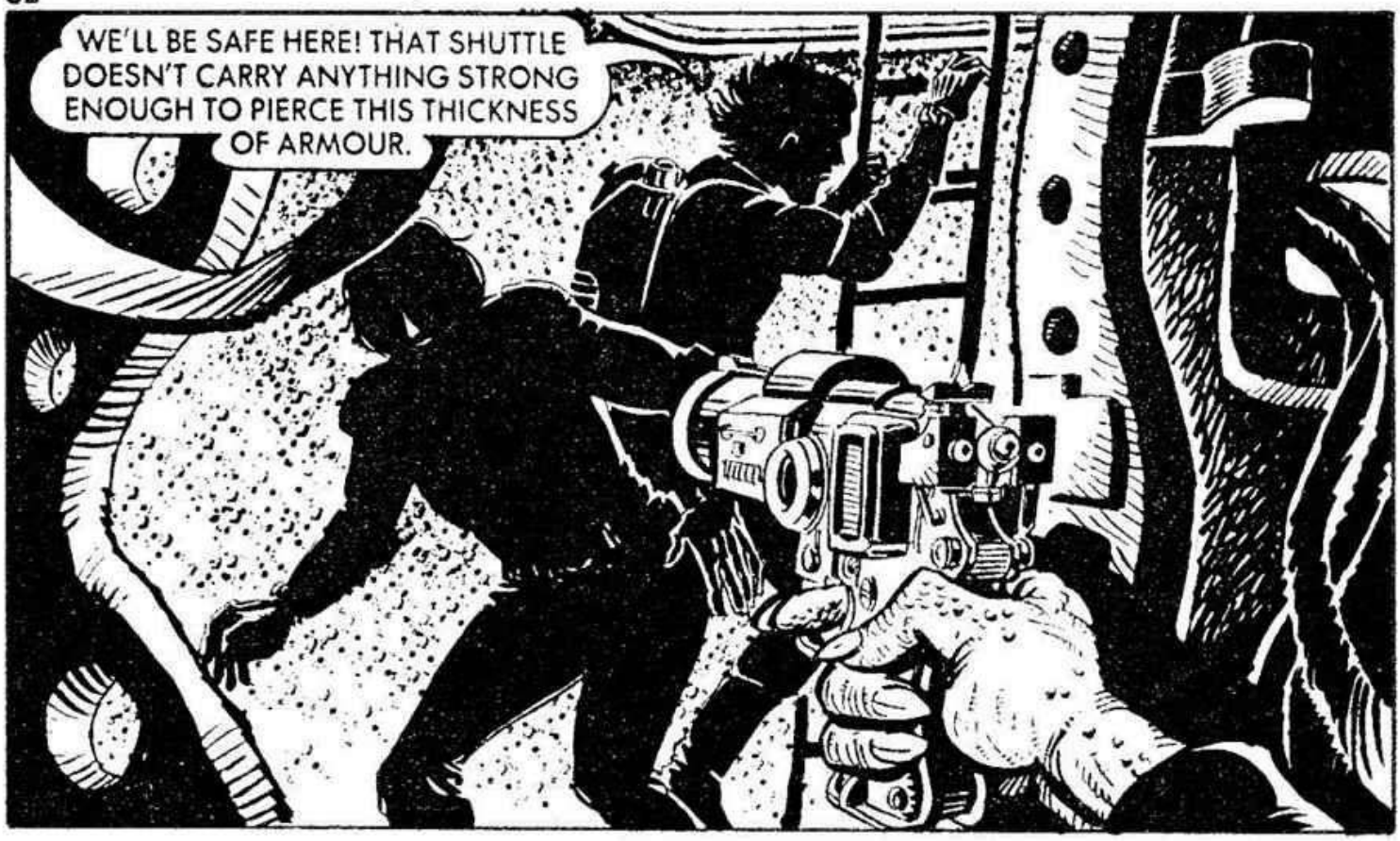

THE CREWMAN HAD TRICKED ALTAIR AND DAGG INTO STANDING ON THE CARGO HATCH, WHICH HE IMMEDIATELY ACTIVATED ON FAST-OPEN.
LOOK OUT DAGG!

USE YOUR JET-PACK TO BREAK YOUR FALL, DAGG!


HE'S DIVE-BOMBING US WITH STUN-GRENADES!

THEY LANDED SAFELY —
OUR ONLY CHANCE US TO TAKE COVER IN THAT DERELICT MACHINE.

QUICK, HE'S TURNING FOR ANOTHER DIVE!


WE'LL BE SAFE HERE! THAT SHUTTLE DOESN'T CARRY ANYTHING STRONG ENOUGH TO PIERCE THIS THICKNESS OF ARMOUR.

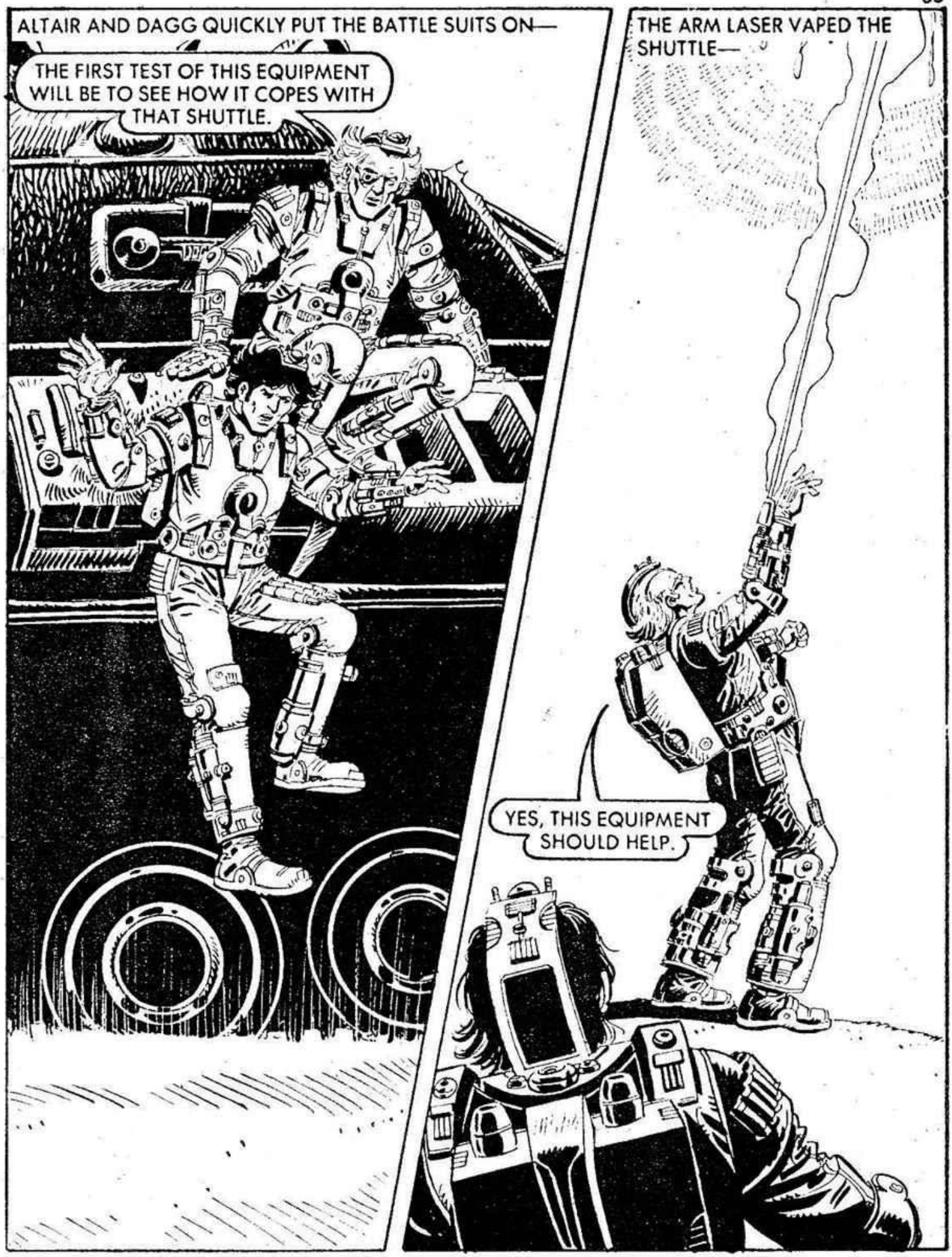
LOOK OUT DAGG! SOMETHING'S GOT US IN ITS SIGHTS!

DID YOU GET IT?
HE WAS DEAD BEFORE WE GOT HERE. SOMEONE PROPPED HIM UP TO SCARE OFF INTRUDERS.

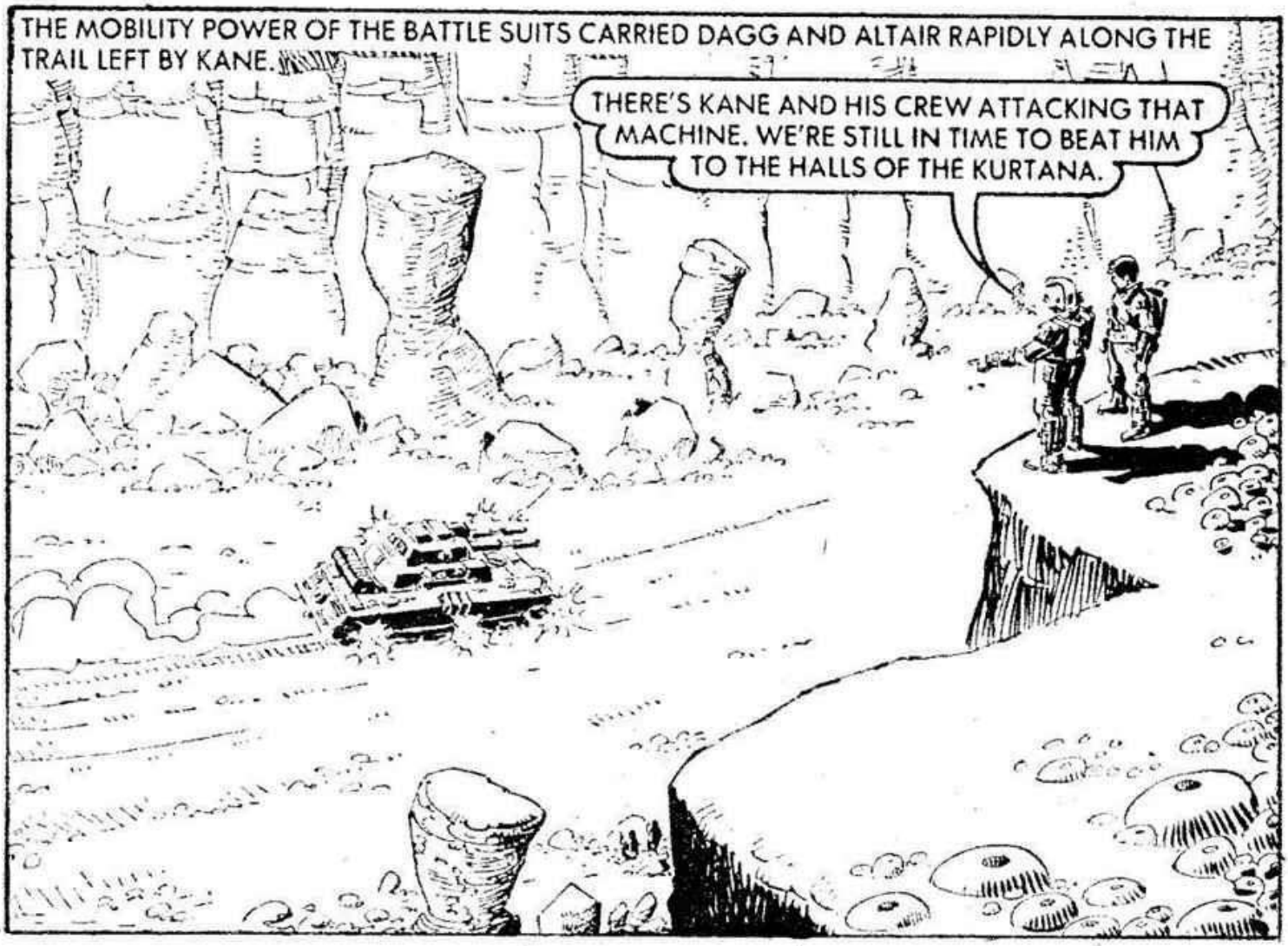
DAGG AND ALTAIR FELT ANOTHER MIND INSIDE THEIR HEADS, DRAINING THEM OF THE ABILITY TO MOVE.
I CAN READ YOUR VIBRATIONS, MEN OF EARTH. YOU ARE NOT EVIL, ALTHOUGH ONE OF YOU HAS BEEN OUTSIDE YOUR LAWS IN HIS PAST. THE DEATH YOU SEE WAS CAUSED BY THE MAN YOU SEEK—NOVA KANE.

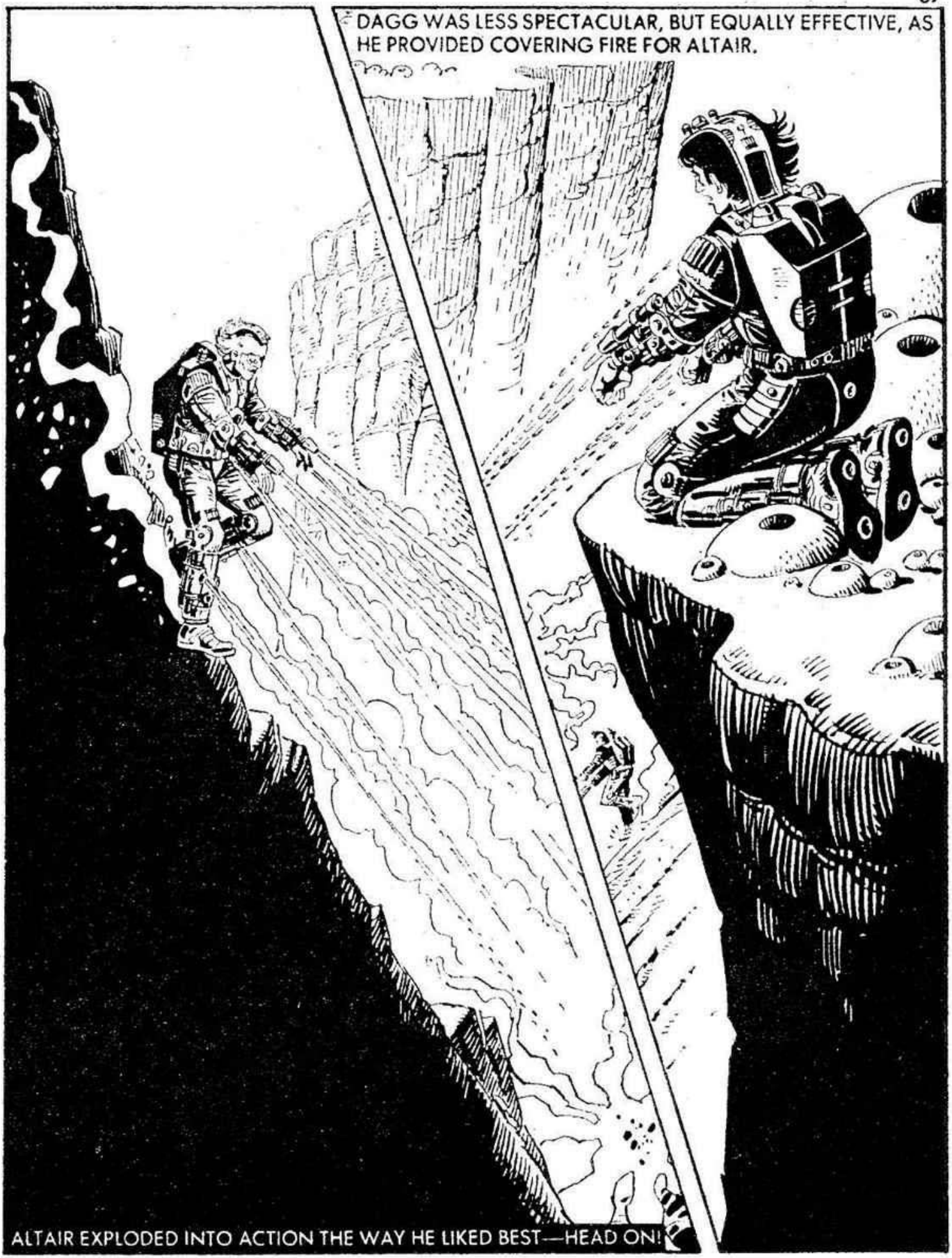
I AM MORTALLY WOUNDED, BUT MY SPIRIT LIVES. SOME OF MY COMPANIONS SURVIVED BUT WERE PURSUED BY KANE. I ASK THAT YOU GO TO THEM, FOR THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT.

TAKE THESE BATTLE-SUITS, I SENSE THAT YOU WILL KNOW HOW TO USE THEM.


ALTAIR AND DAGG QUICKLY PUT THE BATTLE SUITS ON—
THE FIRST TEST OF THIS EQUIPMENT WILL BE TO SEE HOW IT COPES WITH THAT SHUTTLE.
THE ARM LASER VAPED THE SHUTTLE—
YES, THIS EQUIPMENT SHOULD HELP.

PERHAPS I WAS A LITTLE HASTY! THERE GOES OUR ONLY MEANS OF RETREAT, WHICH GIVES US NO OPTION EXCEPT TO PUSH FORWARD.
FORWARD IS THE WAY I WOULD HAVE CHOSEN IN ANY EVENT.

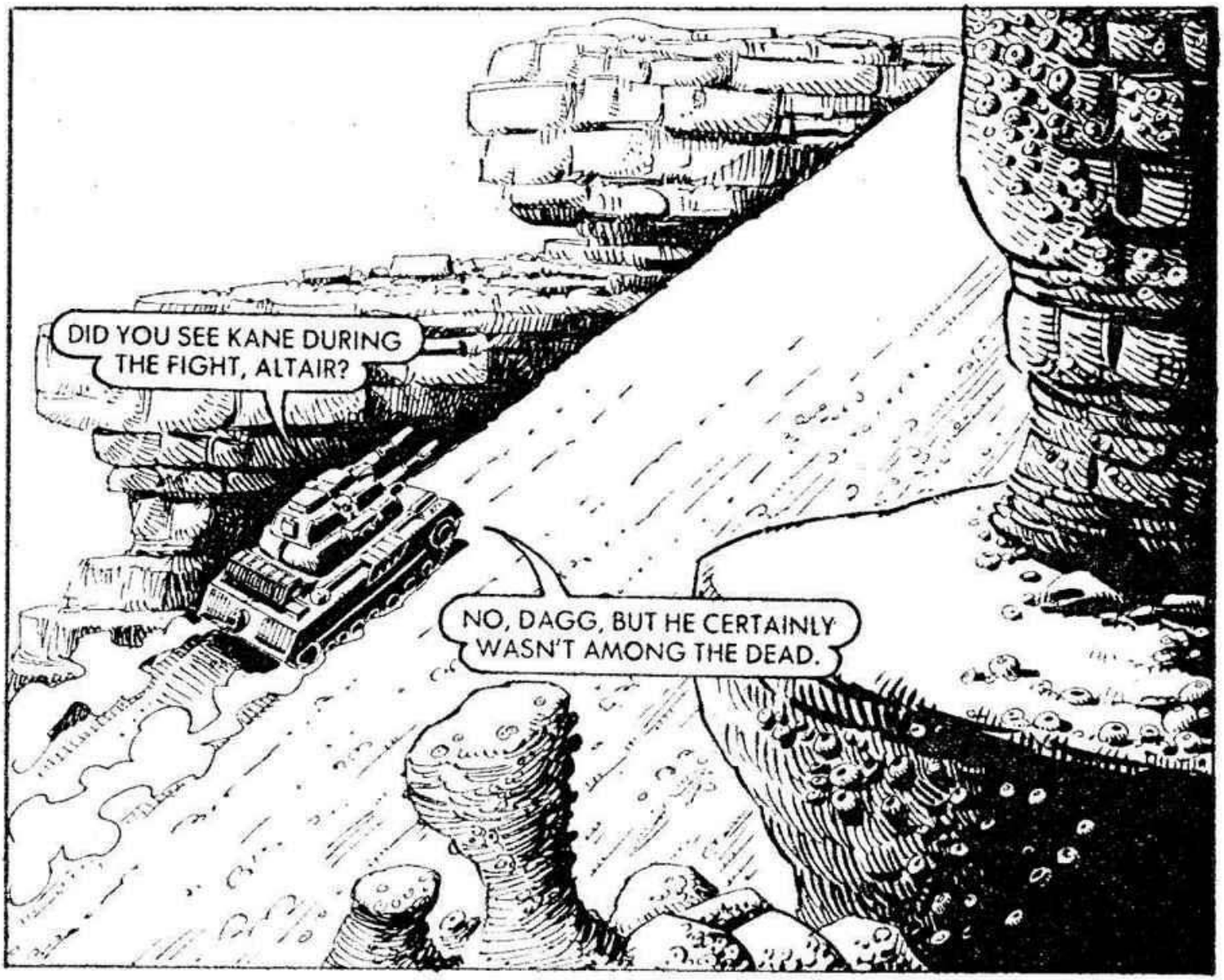

THE MOBILITY POWER OF THE BATTLE SUITS CARRIED DAGG AND ALTAIR RAPIDLY ALONG THE TRAIL LEFT BY KANE.
THERE'S KANE AND HIS CREW ATTACKING THAT MACHINE. WE'RE STILL IN TIME TO BEAT HIM TO THE HALLS OF THE KURTANA.

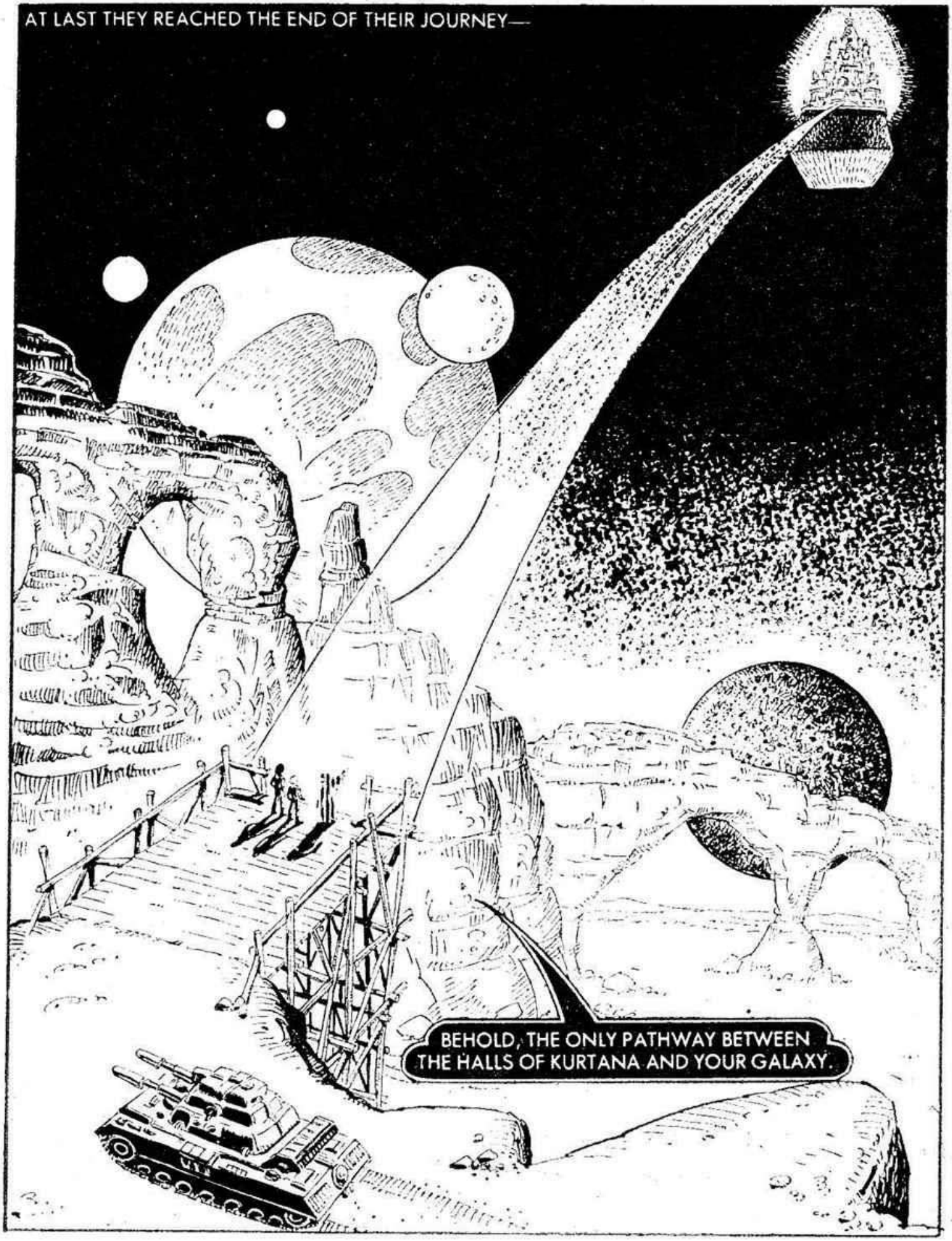

DAGG WAS LESS SPECTACULAR, BUT EQUALLY EFFECTIVE, AS HE PROVIDED COVERING FIRE FOR ALTAIR.
ALTAIR EXPLODED INTO ACTION THE WAY HE LIKED BEST—HEAD ON!

IN THE DUSTY CONFUSION OF THE CONFLICT, NOVA KANE FAILED TO IDENTIFY HIS NEW ADVERSARIES.
NOT ALL THE KURTANA LACK THE WILL TO FIGHT, IT SEEMS. I MUST FIND ANOTHER WAY TO BREAK INTO THEIR HALLS.

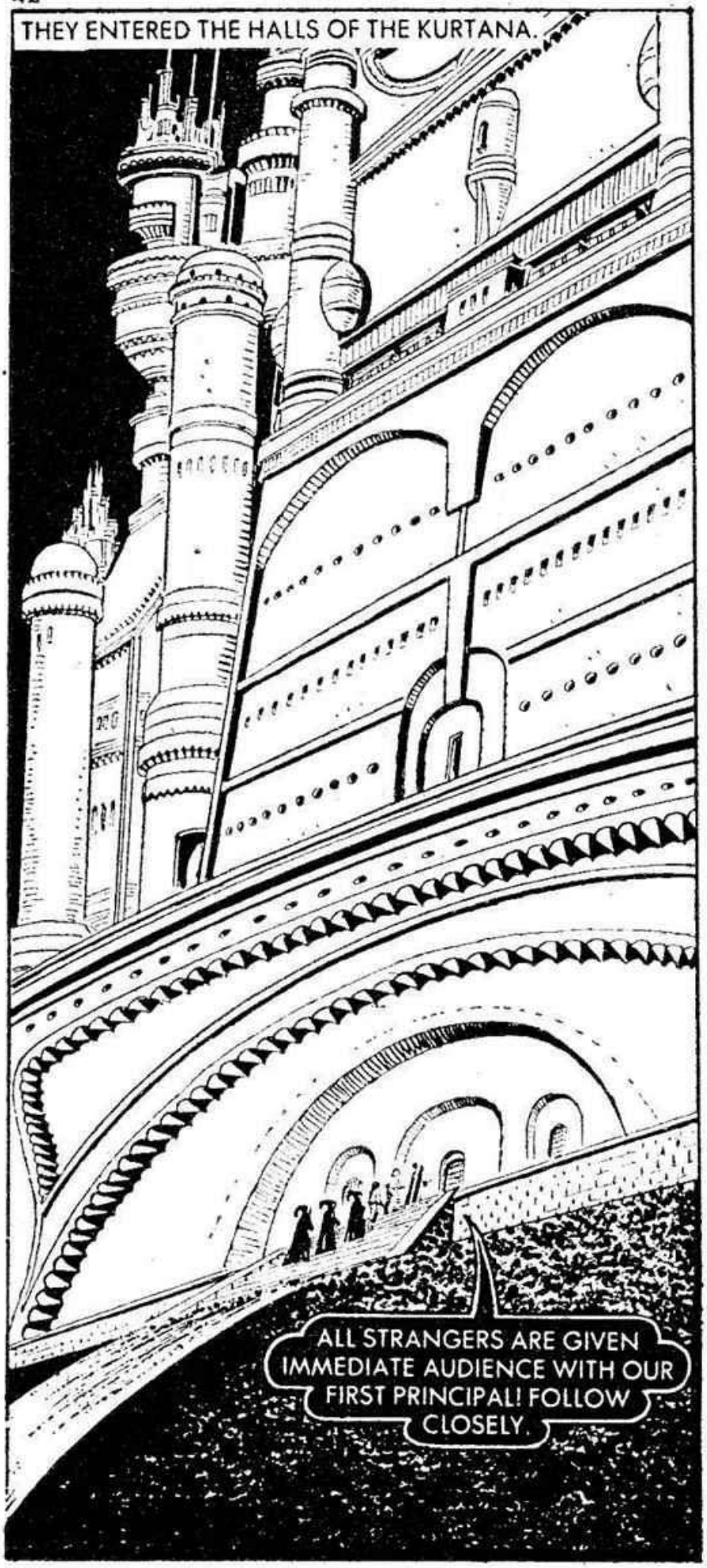
THE KURTANA THANK YOU FOR THEIR LIVES, STRANGER, BUT AS YOU ARE NOT OF OUR BRETHERN YOU MUST GO.
MY SPACESHIP WAS WRECKED BY YOUR METEOR STORM. MY FRIEND AND I CANNOT GO.

YOU MAY COME WITH US. BUT BE WARNED THAT OUR FIRST PRINCIPAL HOLDS THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH OVER ALL WHO ENTER OUR HALLS.


DID YOU SEE KANE DURING THE FIGHT, ALTAIR?
NO, DAGG, BUT HE CERTAINLY WASN'T AMONG THE DEAD.


AT LAST THEY REACHED THE END OF THEIR JOURNEY—
BEHOLD, THE ONLY PATHWAY BETWEEN THE HALLS OF KURTANA AND YOUR GALAXY.

THIS WILL BE YOUR HOME FOR THE REST OF YOUR DAYS, FOR NO STRANGER EVER LEAVES OUR HALLS.
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!
OUR HALLS ARE IMPREGNABLE. BUT MORE AND MORE WE NEED TO JOURNEY FOR RAW MATERIALS TO SUSTAIN US. FREQUENTLY WE ARE ATTACKED BY THE NATIVES OF THIS PLANETOID.
THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE IF YOU'RE STEALING THEIR RESOURCES.


THEY ENTERED THE HALLS OF THE KURTANA.
ALL STRANGERS ARE GIVEN IMMEDIATE AUDIENCE WITH OUR FIRST PRINCIPAL! FOLLOW CLOSELY.

INFORMATION OF THIS INTRUSION TRAVELLED AHEAD OF YOU, STRANGERS. YOU ARE NOT WELCOME.

I COULDN'T CARE WHAT YOU FEEL! DIDN'T ANYONE TELL YOU WE FOUGHT ON YOUR SIDE OUT THERE? YOU OWE US A FAVOUR.

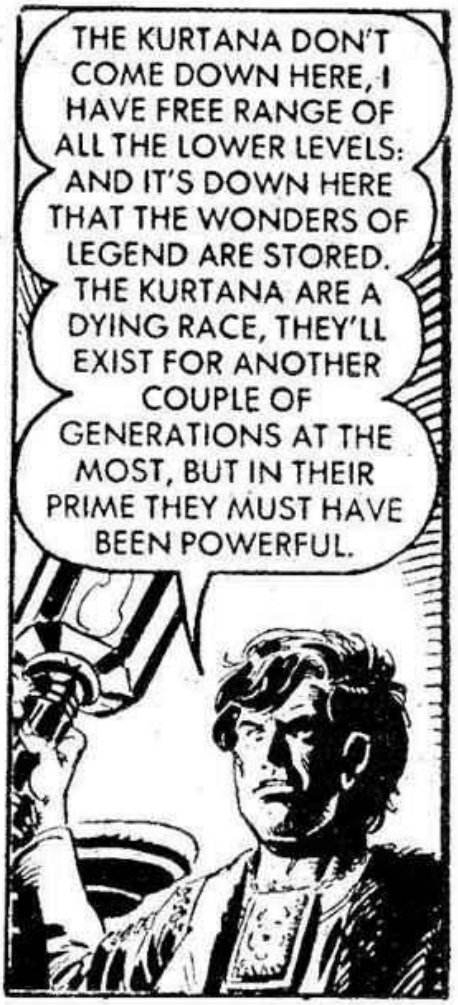
ALTAIR WAS FROZEN IN HIS TRACKS—
NOT EVEN MY OWN PEOPLE ARE ALLOWED TO APPROACH ME, AND NONE MAY QUESTION MY OPINION. I WILL DECIDE YOUR PUNISHMENT IN DUE COURSE, MEANWHILE YOU WILL BE CONTAINED WITHIN MY CELLARS.

ALTHOUGH THEY HAD LOST THE WILL TO FIGHT, THE KURTANA WERE ABLE TO EXERCISE MIND CONTROL AT CLOSE RANGE, AND SO MADE PRISONERS OF DAGG AND ALTAIR.
A HANDFUL OF ARMED MEN COULD OVER-RUN THIS WHOLE SET UP IF SHIELDED AGAINST MIND-CONTROL.

THE CELL DOOR SWUNG OPEN—
NOW WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH US?

THE VISITOR WAS THE ORIGINATOR OF THE TRANSMIT MESSAGE THAT HAD LOCATED THE HALLS OF THE KURTANA.
BRENT!

BRENT TOOK THE NEW ARRIVALS DOWN THROUGH THE CORRIDORS—
I KNEW SOMEBODY WOULD ANSWER MY CALL, EVENTUALLY.


THE KURTANA DON'T COME DOWN HERE, I HAVE FREE RANGE OF ALL THE LOWER LEVELS: AND IT'S DOWN HERE THAT THE WONDERS OF LEGEND ARE STORED. THE KURTANA ARE A DYING RACE, THEY'LL EXIST FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF GENERATIONS AT THE MOST, BUT IN THEIR PRIME THEY MUST HAVE BEEN POWERFUL.

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF ABANDONED VAULTS OF EQUIPMENT LIKE THIS. IT WAS IN ONE OF THEM I FOUND THE TRANSMITTER I USED FOR THE MESSAGE.

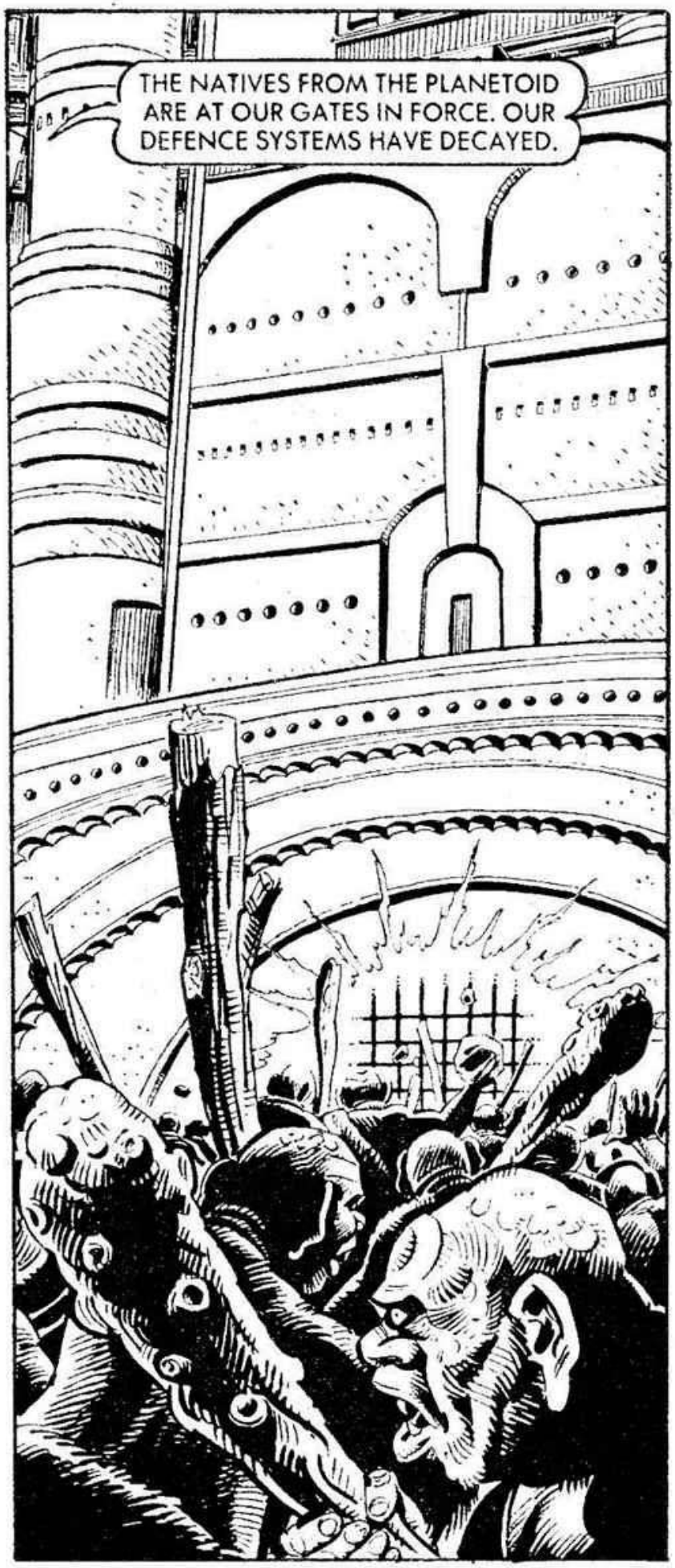
YOU COULD HAVE FOUGHT YOUR WAY OUT OF HERE ANYTIME YOU LIKED WITH STUFF LIKE THIS.

WITHOUT A WARP-DRIVE SHIP, THERE WAS NO POINT.

A WRIST COMMUNICATOR BUZZED—

THAT SIGNAL MEANS THE KURTANA WANT TO SEE ME. WE'LL PLAN OUR BREAKOUT LATER.

TO HIS SURPRISE, BRENT WAS ESCORTED FOR A RARE AUDIENCE WITH THE FIRST PRINCIPAL.
A NEW DANGER THREATENS US, OF SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT I MUST ASK FOR THE HELP OF YOU AND THE OTHER STRANGERS.


THE NATIVES FROM THE PLANETOID ARE AT OUR GATES IN FORCE. OUR DEFENCE SYSTEMS HAVE DECAYED.

IF YOU WILL DRIVE THE ENEMY FROM OUR DOOR, I WILL SPARE THE LIVES OF THE STRANGERS I NOW KNOW TO BE YOUR FRIENDS.

EACH OF THE EARTHMEN CHOSE A WEAPON FROM THE VAST ARSENAL IN THE CELLARS AND PREPARED TO DO BATTLE WITH THE MOB, BUT THEIR MINDS WERE ON THE MAIN CHANCE OF ESCAPING.
ONCE WE'VE CLEARED THE GATEWAY, WE'LL DOUBLE BACK TO WHERE THE SPACE-SHUTTLES ARE STORED.

THE KURTANA OPENED THEIR GATES TO LET OUT THE THREE-MAN DEFENCE FORCE.
DRIVE THEM BACK! STUN ONLY.

BACK!

THE ALIENS RETREATED FROM THE CARPET OF ELECTRON BOLTS LAID AT THEIR FEET.

BUT A STRAY AXE HIT DAGG—

LOOK OUT, DAGG!

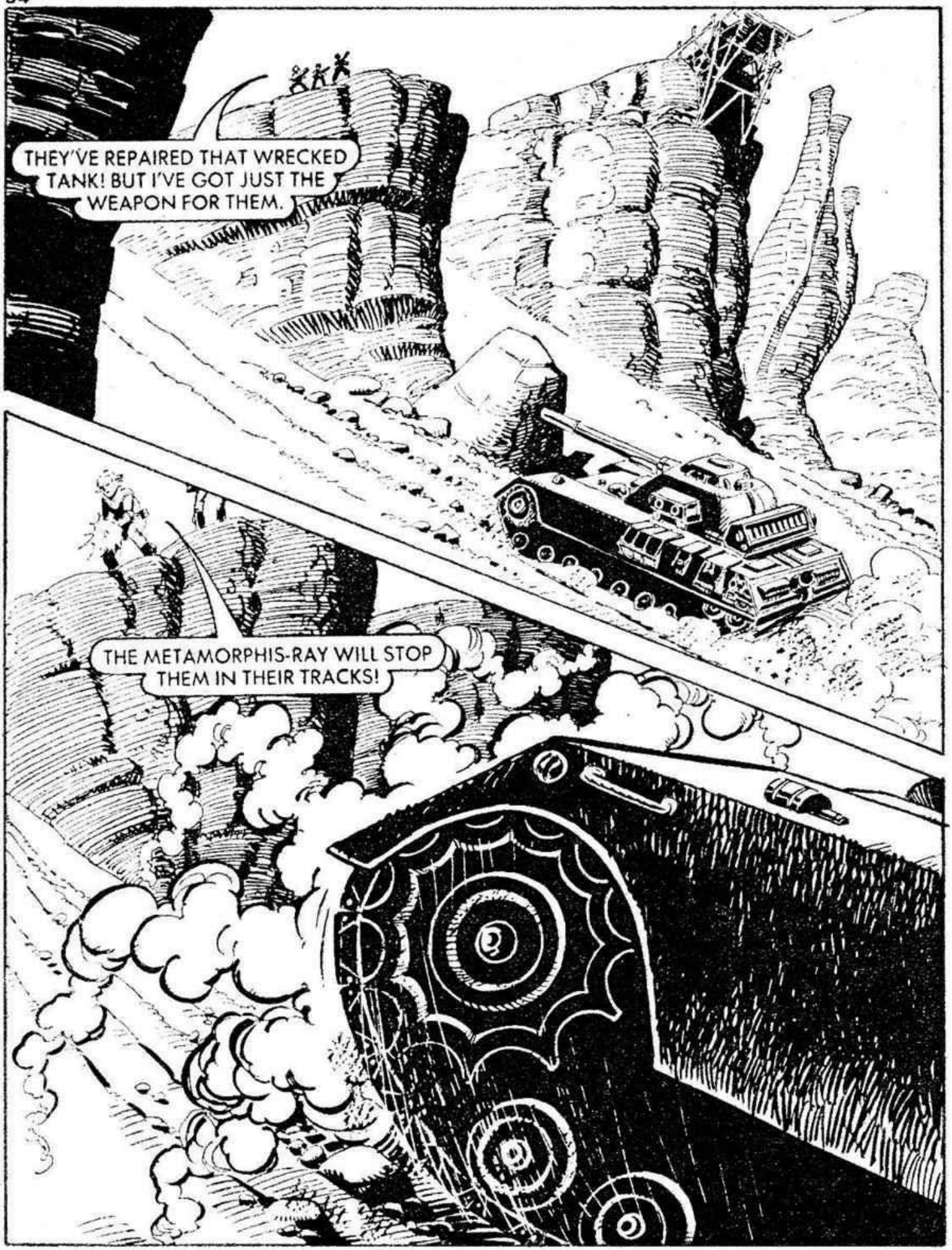
ONLY MY MOLECULAR DISRUPTOR CAN SAVE DAGG NOW!

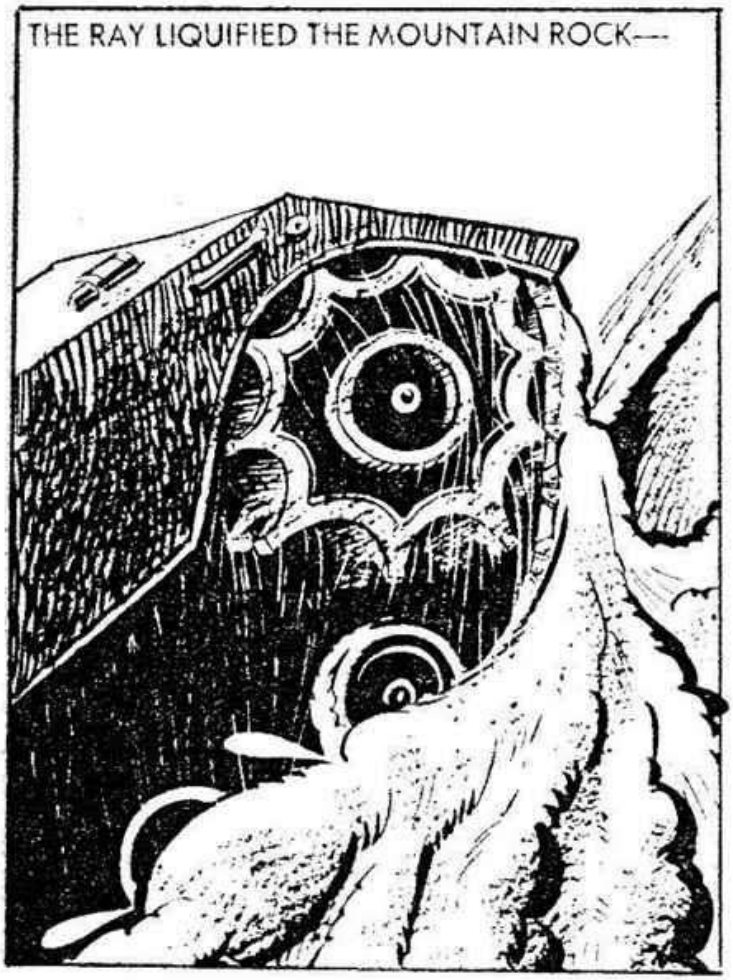
BRENT'S SHOT ATOMISED THE AXE—

THE EXPLOSIVE DISLOCATION OF THEIR WEAPONS THREW THE ATTACKERS INTO INSTANT RETREAT.

WE'VE GOT TO PURSUE THEM. ACCORDING TO THE KURTANA THERE'S DAMAGE TO THE PLANET END OF THE FORCE BRIDGE WHICH PREVENTS IT BEING SWITCHED OFF. THEY WANT US TO DO A REPAIR JOB.
I'M FIT, LET'S GO.

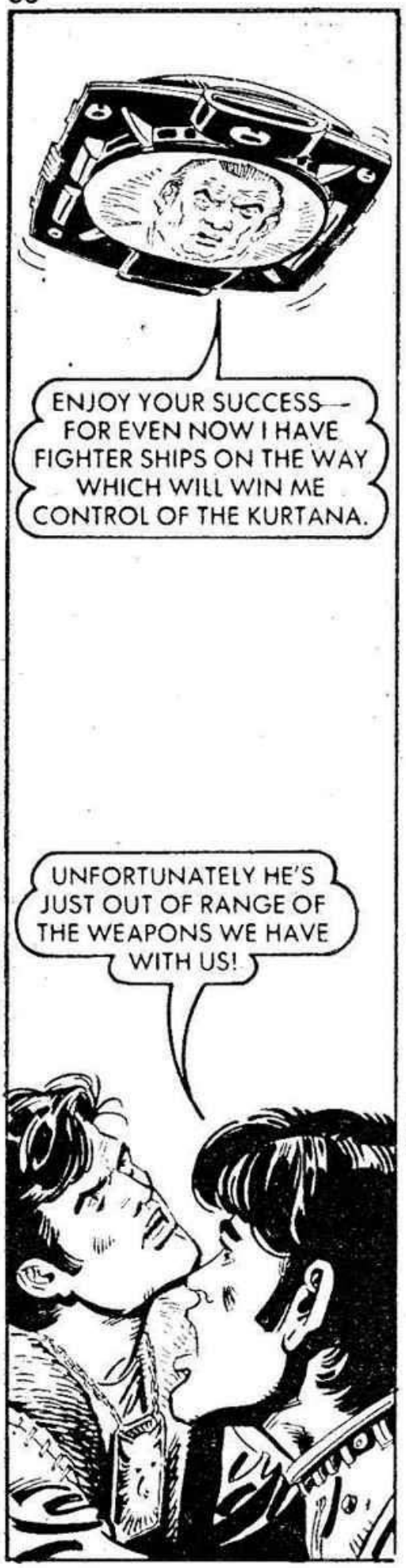
LOOK THERE, IT'S KANE'S MEN. WE SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THEY WERE BEHIND THIS SUDDEN ATTACK ON THE KURTANA!


THEY'VE REPAIRED THAT WRECKED TANK! BUT I'VE GOT JUST THE WEAPON FOR THEM.
THE METAMORPHIS-RAY WILL STOP THEM IN THEIR TRACKS!


THE RAY LIQUIFIED THE MOUNTAIN ROCK—

THE ROCK SETS HARD AS SOON AS THE RAY IS OFF: WE'RE TRAPPED!

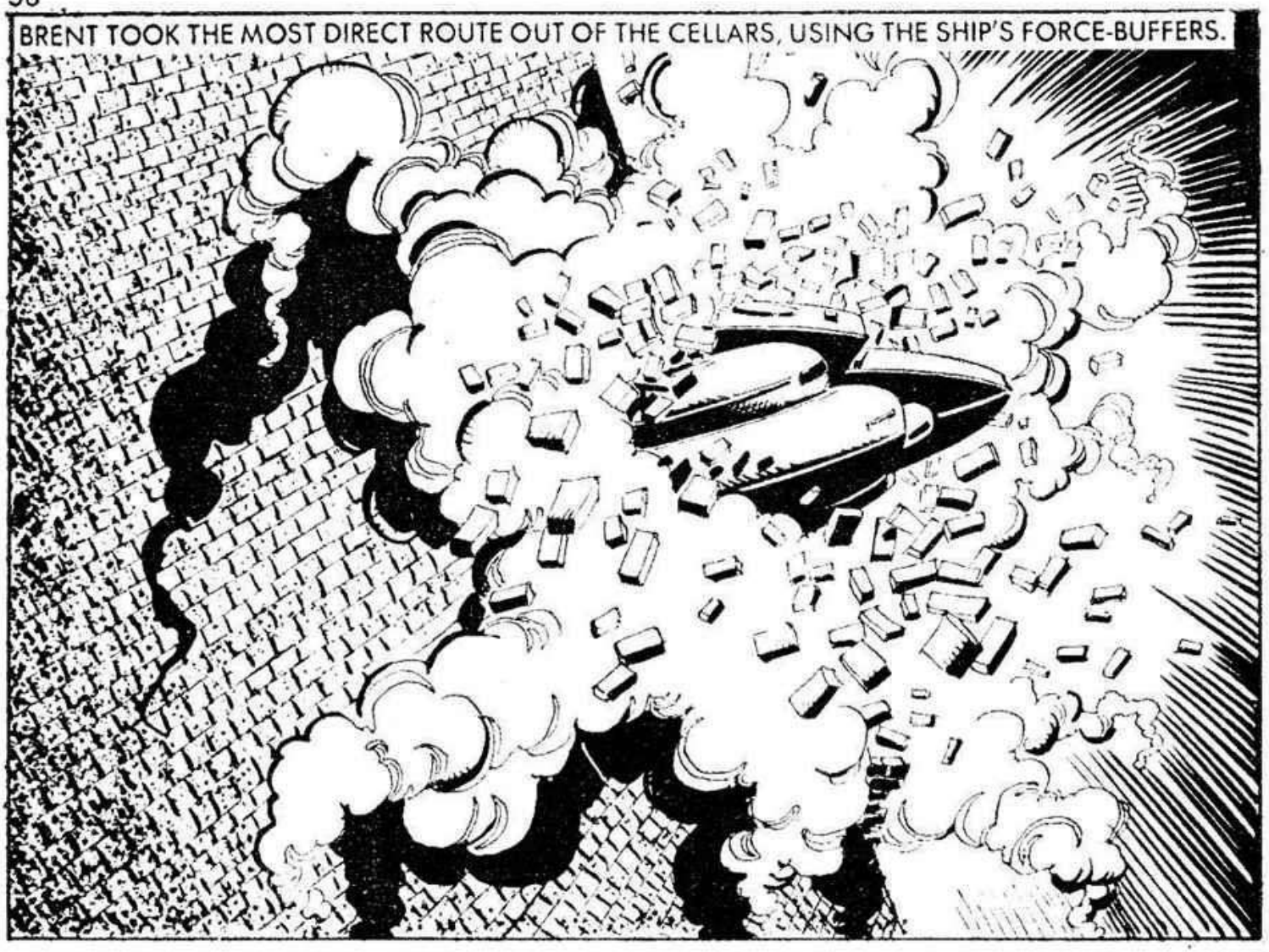
TAKE COVER, BRENT! THAT LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER OF KANE'S FIGHTING FORCE.

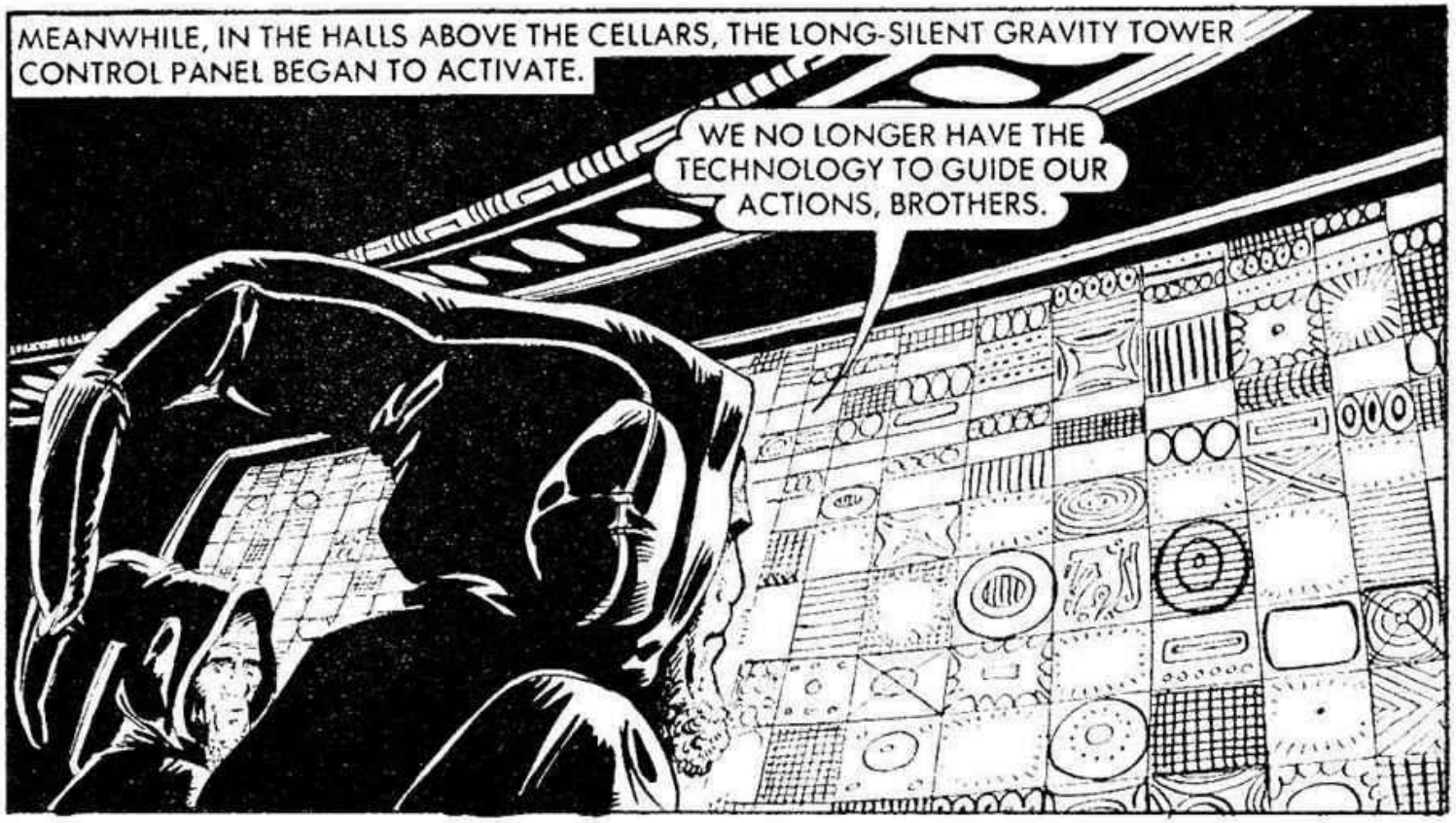

ENJOY YOUR SUCCESS— FOR EVEN NOW I HAVE FIGHTER SHIPS ON THE WAY WHICH WILL WIN ME CONTROL OF THE KURTANA.
UNFORTUNATELY HE'S JUST OUT OF RANGE OF THE WEAPONS WE HAVE WITH US!

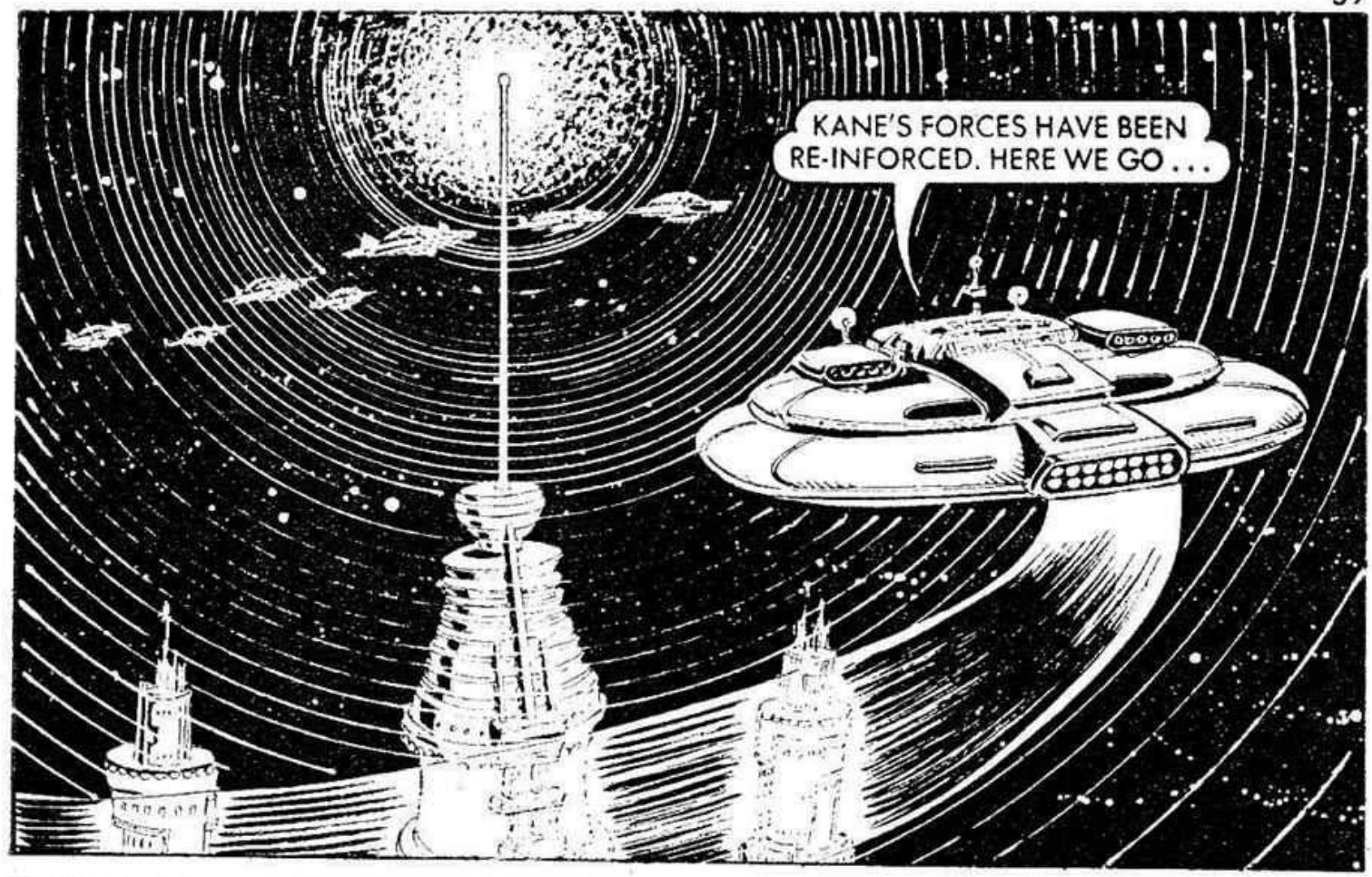
THEY RETURNED TO THE HALLS—
KANE'S NOW GIVEN US A LEGITIMATE REASON TO GET ONE OF THE KURTANA'S SHIPS SPACE BORNE.

THE SUDDEN INCREASE OF AGGRESSION AGAINST HIS HALLS, MADE THE FIRST PRINCIPAL OF THE KURTANA DECIDE UPON A DESPERATE ACTION.
I AM TO REACTIVATE THE FULL FORCE OF THE GRAVITY TOWER, WHICH MY ANCESTORS USED TO BRING US TO THIS SECRET PLACE AEONS AGO. PROTECT OUR DEPARTURE AND YOU CAN GO FREE: FOR YOU WILL NO LONGER HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LOCATION.

THE EARTHMEN NEEDED NO SECOND BIDDING TO GET SPACE-BORNE.
I'VE GOT DATA STORAGE UNITS IN MY CELL WITH ALL THE DETAILS OF THE KURTANA TECHNOLOGY. WE MUST TAKE THEM— THEY'RE WORTH A FORTUNE!
I LEARNED THE WORKINGS OF THIS CRAFT DURING MY CAPTIVITY AND THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF LIFE IN THE CENTRAL POWER DRIVE.
I FELT THE FLOOR SHAKE! THEY'RE GETTING READY TO MOVE OUT. I HOPE THEIR GRAVITY TOWER STILL WORKS AFTER ALL THIS TIME.


BRENT TOOK THE MOST DIRECT ROUTE OUT OF THE CELLARS, USING THE SHIP'S FORCE-BUFFERS.


MEANWHILE, IN THE HALLS ABOVE THE CELLARS, THE LONG-SILENT GRAVITY TOWER CONTROL PANEL BEGAN TO ACTIVATE.
WE NO LONGER HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY TO GUIDE OUR ACTIONS, BROTHERS.

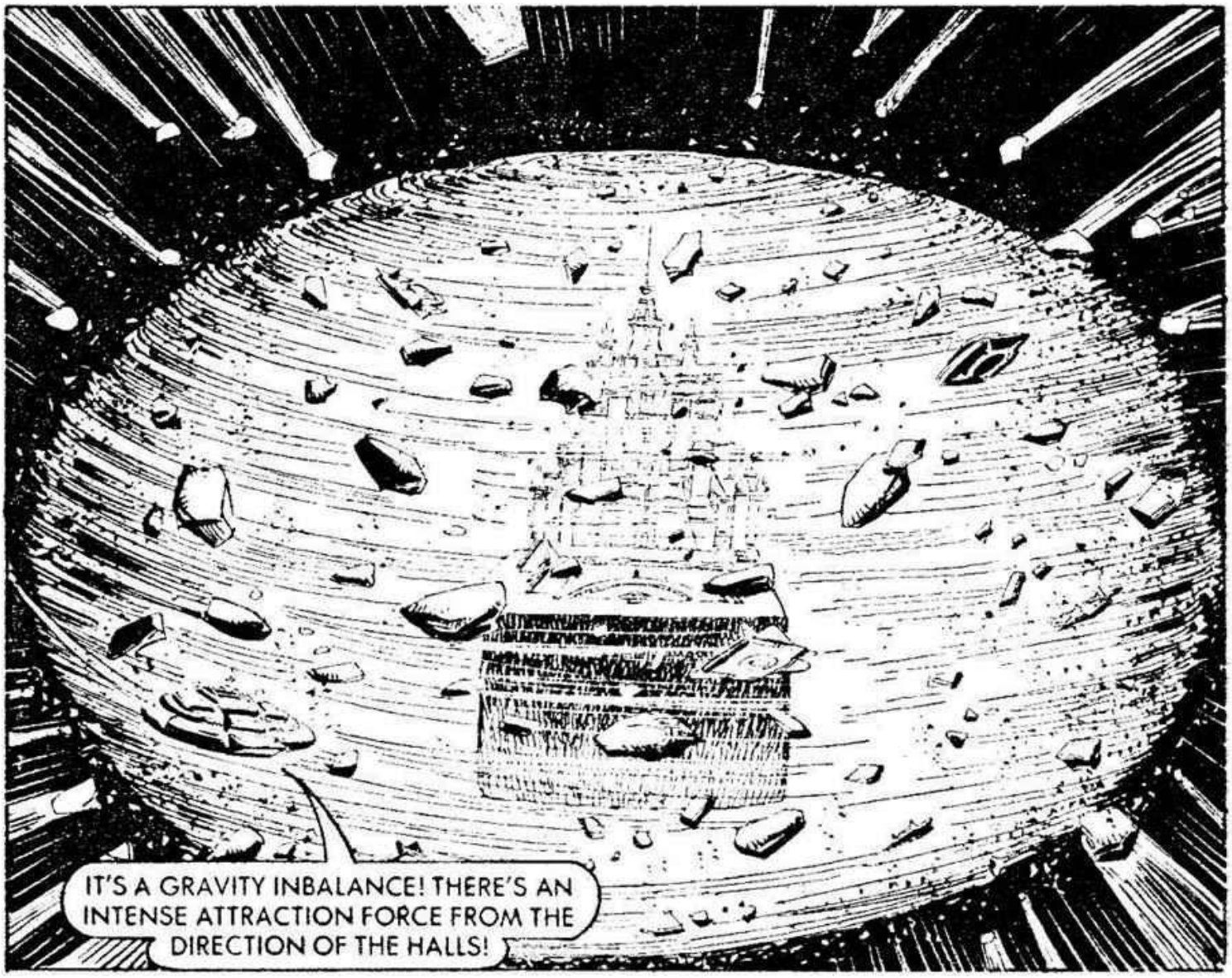

KANE'S FORCES HAVE BEEN RE-INFORCED. HERE WE GO . . .

WE'VE GOT THE ADVANTAGE OF GREATER MANOEUVRABILITY THANKS TO OUR FORCE-BUFFERS.

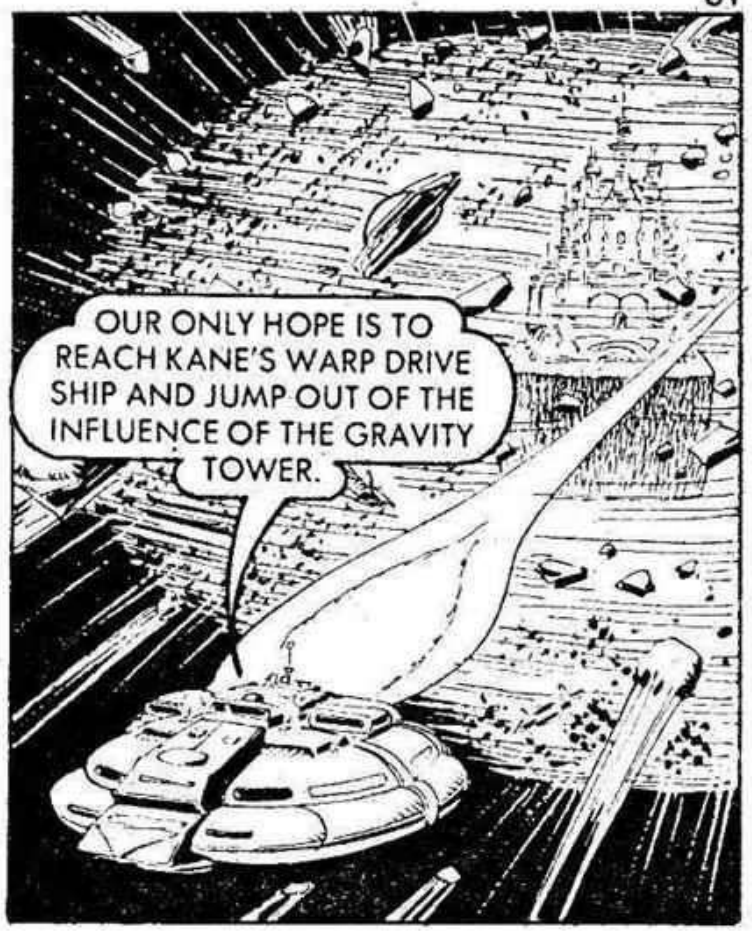
THE GRAVITY TOWER'S SETTING OFF ANOTHER METEOR STORM. IT'S GOING TO BE A NAVIGATOR'S NIGHTMARE.

TAKE US INTO THE FIGHT AGAIN, AND I'LL ADD TO THEIR NIGHTMARES!

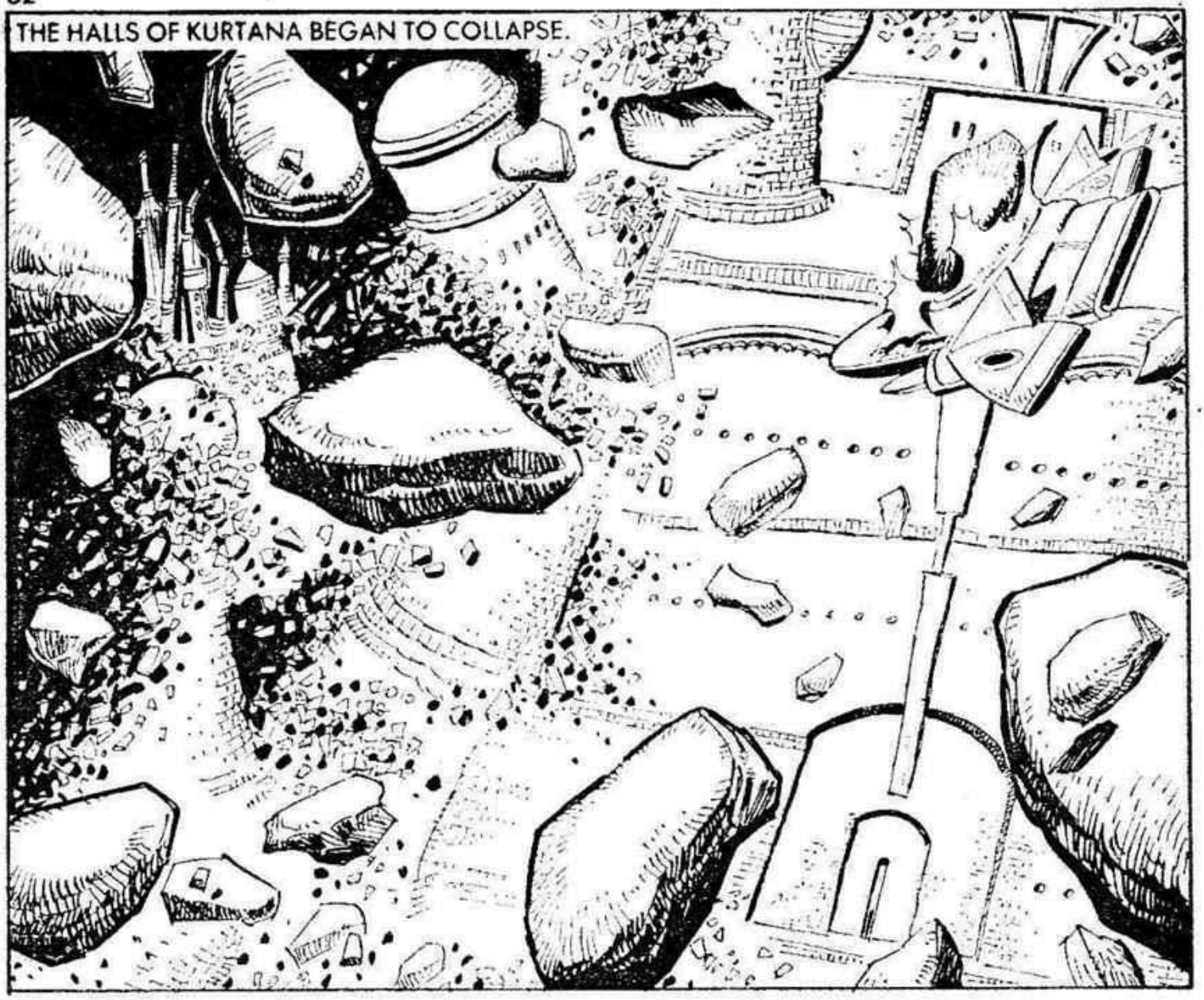
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG! WE'RE BEING DELECTED FIVE POINTS FROM OUR TRUE COURSE SETTING!


IT'S A GRAVITY INBALANCE! THERE'S AN INTENSE ATTRACTION FORCE FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE HALLS!

OUR TECHNOLOGY HAS FAILED US. WE ARE POWERLESS TO PREVENT THE BUILD-UP OF A FORCE EQUIVALENT TO THE GRAVITY PULL OF A NEUTRON STAR.


OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO REACH KANE'S WARP DRIVE SHIP AND JUMP OUT OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE GRAVITY TOWER.

THAT BLIP IS KANE'S SHUTTLE, HE'S AHEAD OF US AND KEEPING HIS DISTANCE. IF HE GETS TO HIS SPACE YACHT AND INTO WARP SPACE BEFORE WE GET THERE, THEN THAT'S OUR LOT.

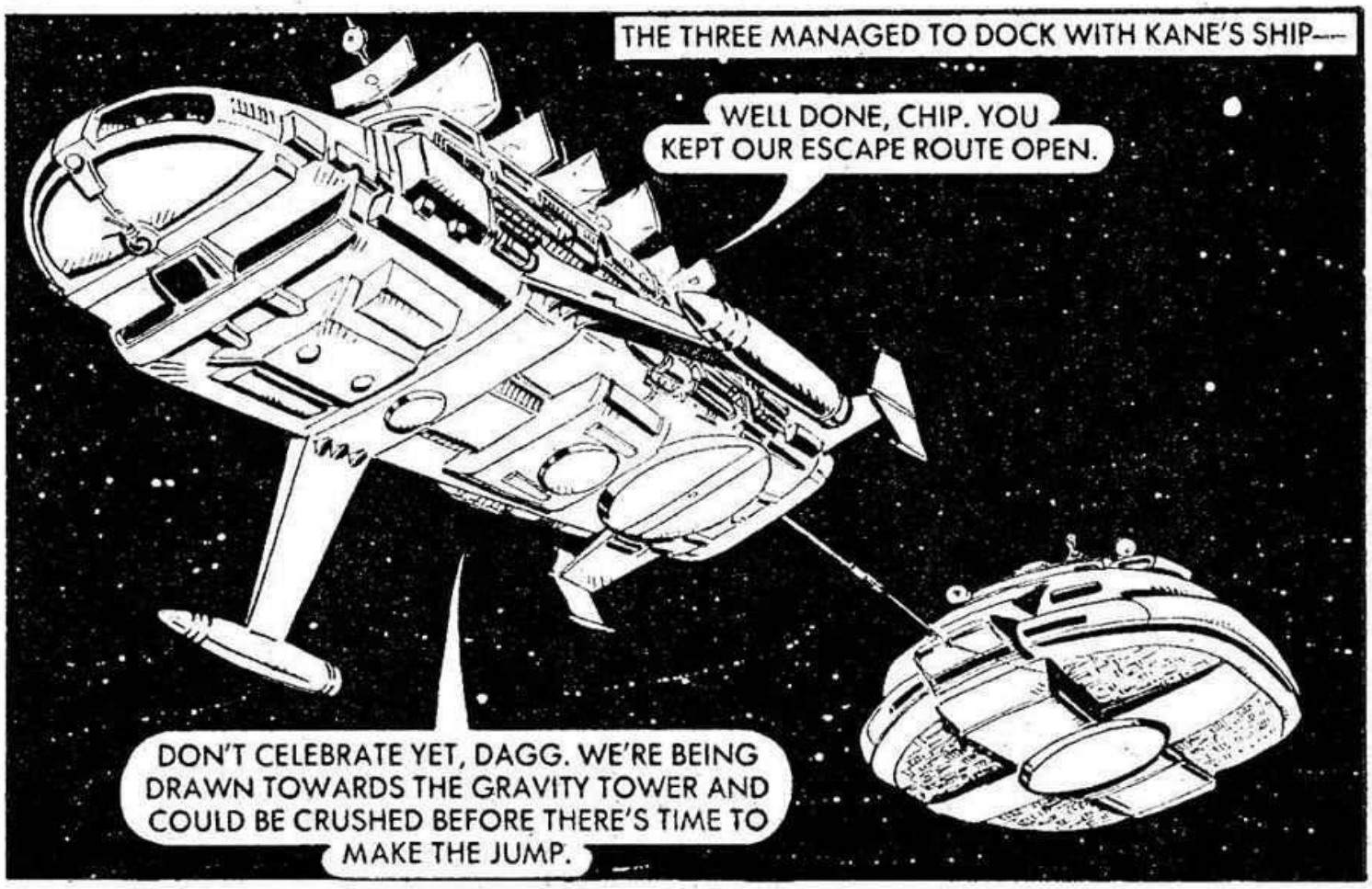

THE HALLS OF KURTANA BEGAN TO COLLAPSE.

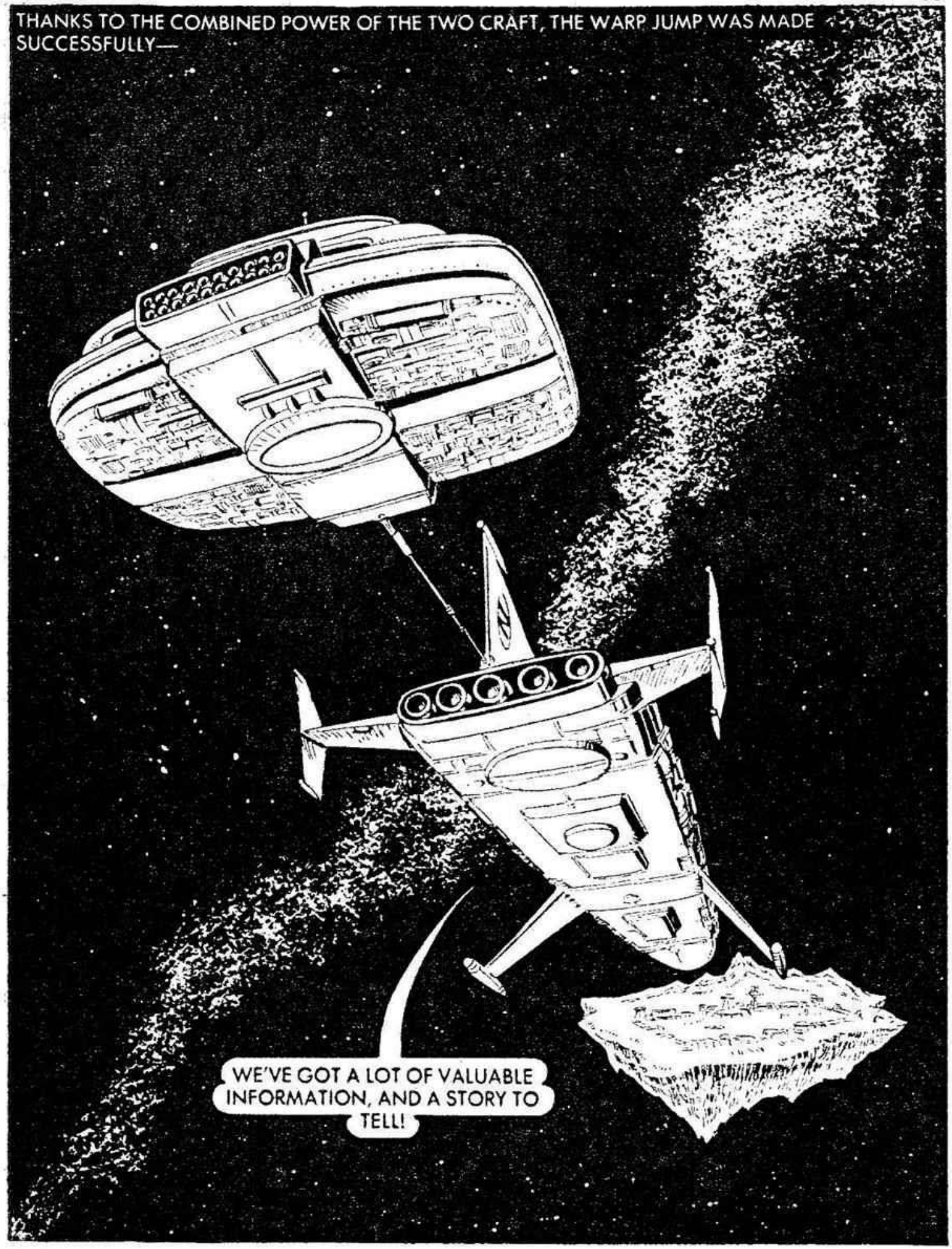
UNABLE TO RESIST THE FORCES, THE KURTANA DIED.

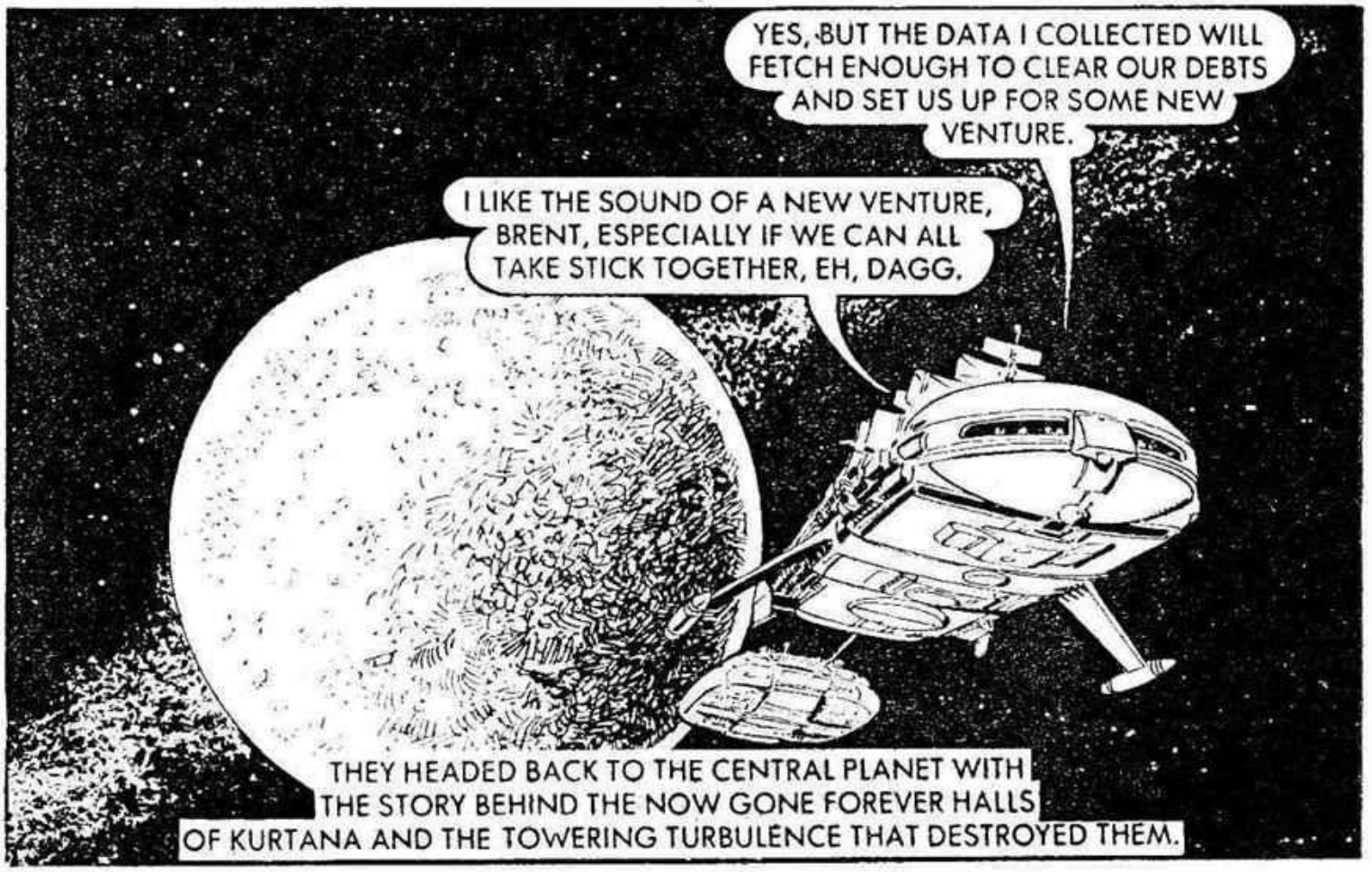
KANE REACHED HIS SPACE YACHT—
I HAVE BEEN CHEATED OF THE PLUNDER OF THE KURTANA, BUT AT LEAST THOSE WHO CROSSED MY PURPOSE WILL DIE.

THE CREWMAN I LEFT ON GUARD DOESN'T ANSWER.

BUT—
YOUR SHIP'S UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT, KANE!

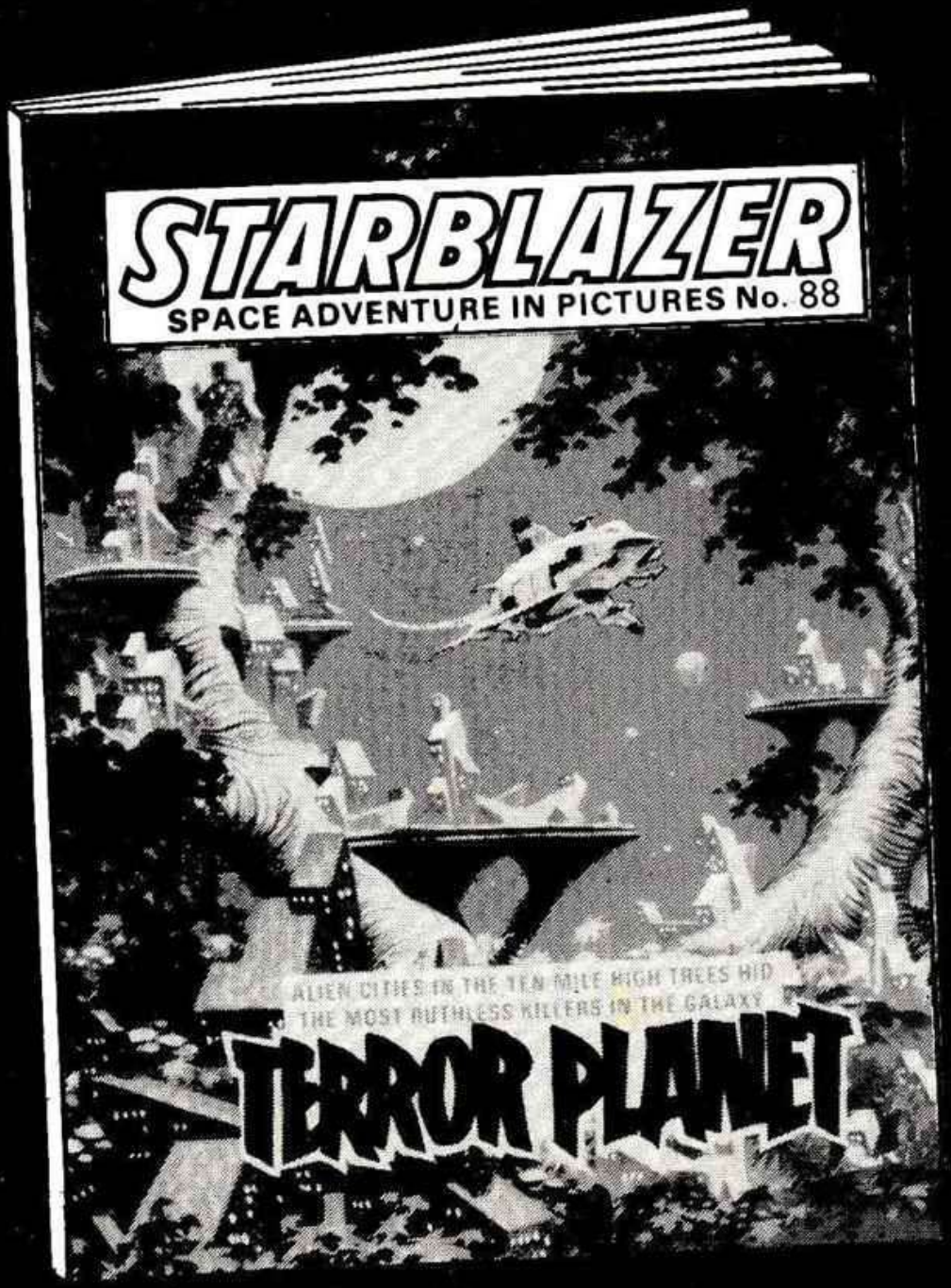

THE THREE MANAGED TO DOCK WITH KANE'S SHIP—
WELL DONE, CHIP. YOU KEPT OUR ESCAPE ROUTE OPEN.
DON'T CELEBRATE YET, DAGG. WE'RE BEING DRAWN TOWARDS THE GRAVITY TOWER AND COULD BE CRUSHED BEFORE THERE'S TIME TO MAKE THE JUMP.


THANKS TO THE COMBINED POWER OF THE TWO CRAFT, THE WARP JUMP WAS MADE SUCCESSFULLY—
WE'VE GOT A LOT OF VALUABLE INFORMATION, AND A STORY TO TELL!



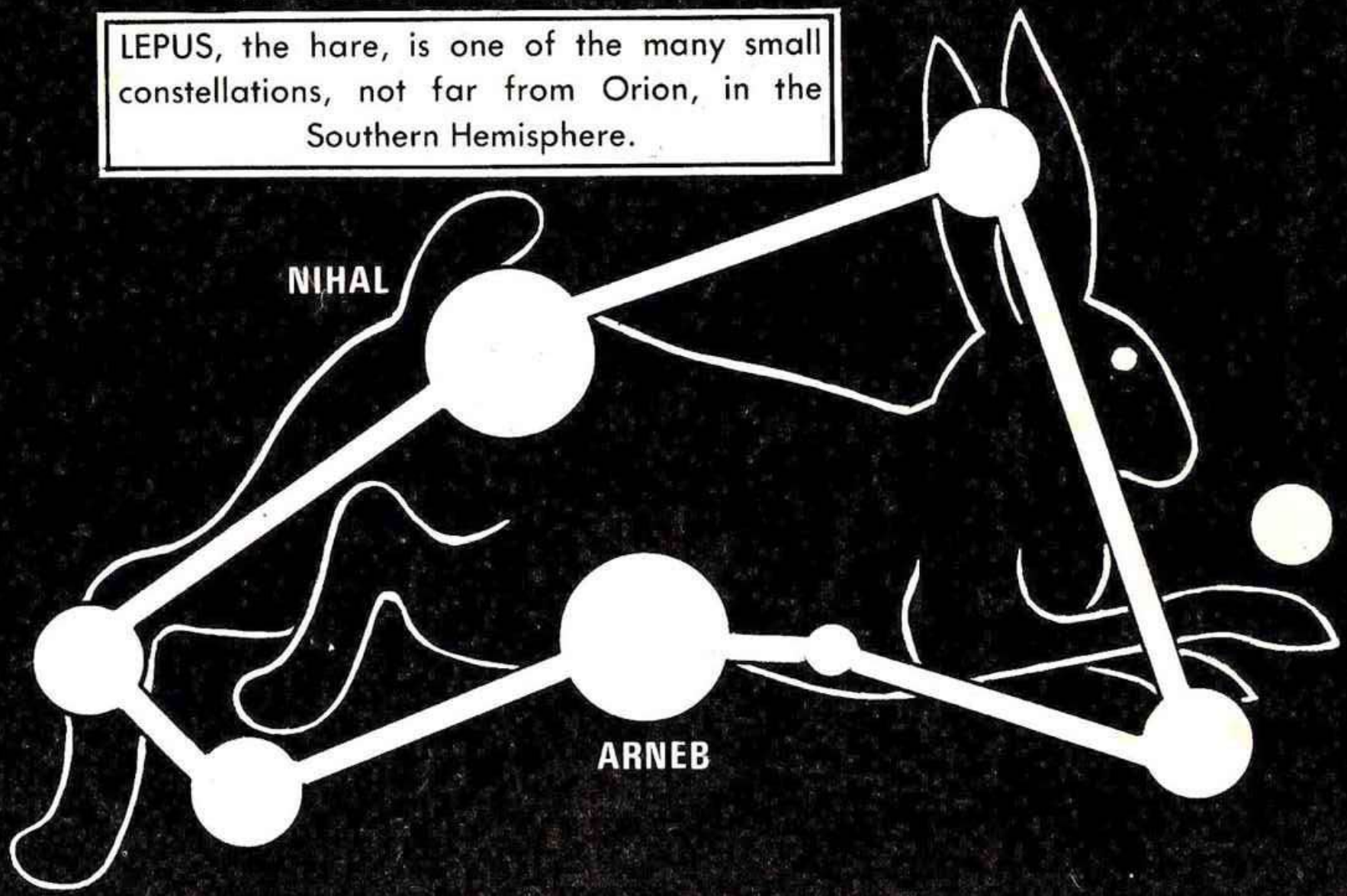
Printed and Published in Great Britain by D.C. THOMSON & CO., LTD., 185 Fleet Street, London, EC4A 2HS. © D.C. THOMSON & CO., LTD., 1983.

DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S OTHER ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE



NOW ON SALE

STARBLAZER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

LEPUS

LEPUS, the hare, is one of the many small constellations, not far from Orion, in the Southern Hemisphere.